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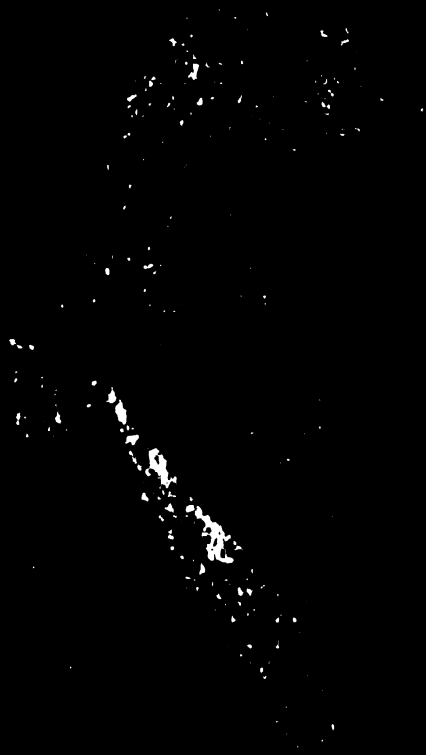
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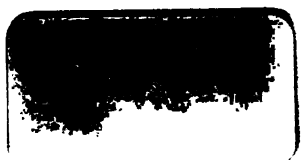
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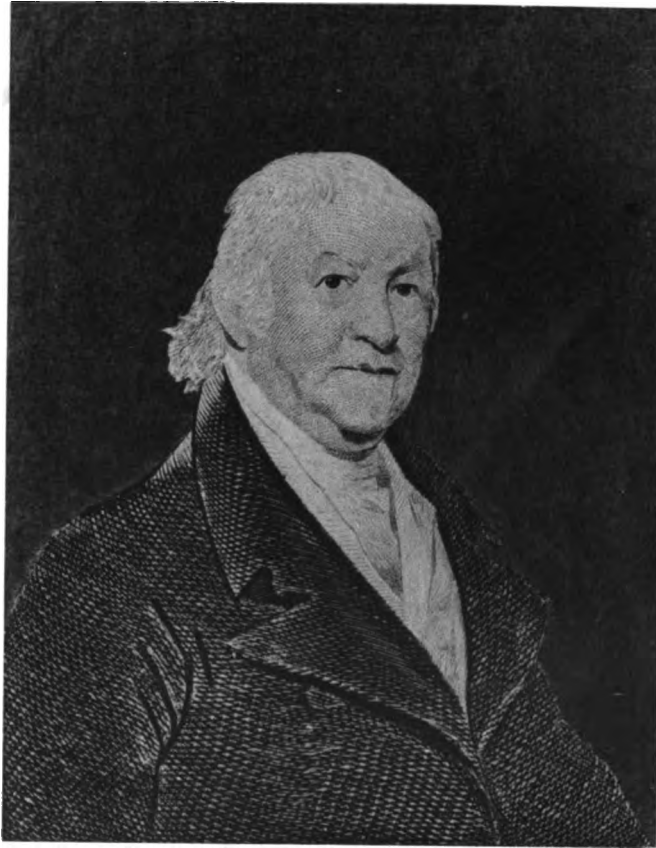


*History of Meridian lodge, A. F. &
A. M., of Natick, Massachusetts: ...*

Charles Casper Henry, Daniel
Henry Lawrence Gleason, John Rockwood

KF 1055





Paul Revere

Grand Master of Free Masons in Massachusetts, who
chartered Meridian Lodge in December, 1797.

ISTORY

1891

1892

OF WHICH
1893

AND DANIEL H. GPOA
1894

OF WHICH 1895

1896

NATION:
1897



HISTORY
OF
MERIDIAN LODGE, A. F. & A. M.
OF
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS :

INCLUDING CHARTERS GRANTED IN 1797 AND 1862—THE MORGAN EPISODE—A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF FREEMASONRY IN GENERAL, AND IN AMERICA—THE BY-LAWS OF MERIDIAN LODGE, AND RULES DERIVED FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF THE

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

BY CHARLES C. HENRY,
Master of Meridian Lodge from November, 1886, to November, 1888.

TO WHICH IS ADDED
A Catalogue of the Officers, Members, and Initiates of the Lodge from its Early History to the Present, and a List of the Active Members in 1892.

BY DANIEL H. L. GLEASON,
Master of Meridian Lodge from November, 1874, to October, 1875.

ALSO
THE BIOGRAPHIES OF PAST MASTERS OF MERIDIAN LODGE.

BY JOHN ROCKWOOD,
Secretary of Meridian Lodge from November, 1883, to January, 1889.

NATICK:
PRINTED BY "NATICK CITIZEN" COMPANY.
1892.

KF 1055



Mrs. Mary C. Hopwood

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PREFACE.

NO department of human research furnishes more pleasure and knowledge to the student, or a clearer insight into the ruling motives which have governed the aims and actions of humanity, resulting in its wonderful achievements, than the study of the history of the races, nations, societies, and men who have preceded us.

From the foundation of civilized society, organizations have been the active forces that have moved the social world, and have caused the story of past ages to be written upon the pages of history in letters of light, or of blood.

In the annals of the world's history, no organization among the thousands that have risen to prominence and power, and have lived their longer or shorter day, exerting their influence upon the race by moulding the opinions and controlling the actions of mankind, none can point to a more ancient, enduring, or beneficent record than can the Masonic institution.

As the history of nations is but the aggregated story of the forces exerted by organized action, so the record of Freemasonry is made up of that of its Lodges and of their individual membership, as they have illustrated in their acts and lives the grand principles of the order, which are at once the basis of character, the foundation of civil society, and the underlying truths of that which is good in all religions, ancient or modern.

The general history of the order—its formation, the baptism of fire and blood through which it has passed, the story of its

progress, power, and performance—has been told by eloquent and instructive tongues to the attentive ears of untold generations, and have been written by many able pens, tradition and history thus succeeding each other in treasuring up its story for the craft in all ages. But too often the detailed histories of subordinate Lodges, and the biographies of local, but earnest and skilled workmen have been neglected; or, having been recorded, have been destroyed by “the ruthless hand of ignorance, the devastations of war,” or—as has been the case with the record of Meridian Lodge—by disastrous conflagration, to the lasting regret and injury of the society and all its members.

To the authors of this work it seems that a great mistake has been made in the past by entrusting the preservation of the history of the Lodge—the good deeds and noble work, the Masonic attainments and high aspirations of its most zealous members—to a single manuscript record laid up in its archives, exposed as such have been to loss or destruction in many ways, when by multiplying the number of the records the danger might have been in a great measure obviated. Nor are the committee willing that the acts of the order, and the memories of its members should be discussed solely by the tongues of enemies and traducers.

It is rather their desire that those who come after them should enjoy the knowledge that has been measurably denied to Masons of the present day; a knowledge of their predecessors, their customs, character, actions, abilities, and successes; and if an apology or reason is necessary for the publication of these pages, the above seems to them to be sufficient for either or both.

No inspired penman has been found to write the record for them, and neither infallibility nor literary merit is claimed for it; nor does the committee deprecate your criticism: they expect it. They simply desire their brethren to remember their inexperience in the work, the difficulties which were encountered, the conflicting information received, and that the work is but a simple and

honest effort to add the record of our brothers' good deeds and virtuous actions to the long roll of those to whom the world already ascribes its honors, and names among its benefactors, suffering all else in their lives to fall into oblivion, as is their plain Masonic duty.

Thus shall we aid in increasing the brightness which shall shine along the pathway of those who may come after us, by the glimmerings that emanate from the virtuous examples of those loved and honored among us now, even as we, with our lesser opportunities, have been cheered and guided by contemplating the light from the lives of those who have travelled the same rough and rugged road before us; who have met the same foes that beset our pathways, and who have passed into the Beyond, towards which we are all prosecuting our journey, let us hope, without fear or apprehension.

The committee were fortunate in securing the able services of our former secretary and brother, John Rockwood, in writing the biographies of our Past Masters. This portion of the work is largely the product of his brain, and adds much to the interest of the work.

Thanking the many other brethren for their hearty co-operation and assistance in this work by contributing needed information, the committee submit these pages without further comment, as the result of their labors, hoping that their brethren may cover their shortcomings with the broad mantle of Masonic charity, and derive from these simple annals some little pleasure and profit, as well as an increased love and zeal for the principles of our ancient and revered institution; principles which if followed will lead us into all truth, and bring us at last to the garden of happiness.

CHAS. C. HENRY, CHM'N,	} Committee.
D. H. L. GLEASON,	
I. M. FELLOWS,	

HISTORY OF MERIDIAN LODGE

FROM

DECEMBER 1797 TO OCTOBER 1892.

ON Monday afternoon, December 11th, 1797, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons held its annual stated communication in what was then known as Concert Hall, in Boston, Massachusetts. From the records of the Grand Lodge of the above date we copy the following:

"A petition from William Hull and others praying for a charter to hold a Lodge in the town of Watertown by the name of Meridian Lodge, was received and duly recommended. Voted, That the prayer of the petition be granted." The following is a copy of the charter granted:

CHARTER OF MERIDIAN LODGE.

TO ALL THE FRATERNITY TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL
COME:

THE GRAND LODGE of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted MASONs, for the
COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS, sends GREET-
ING:

000000
SEAL
000000

WHEREAS, a Petition has been presented to us by William
 Hull and others—all ANCIENT, FREE and ACCEPTED
 MASONS—praying that they, with such others as shall
 hereafter join them, may be erected and constituted
 a regular LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS;
 which Petition appearing to us as tending to the ad-
 vancement of Masonry and the good of the CRAFT:

PAUL REVERE,
 Grand Master.
 SAM'L DUNN,
 Deputy Grand Master.

KNOW YE THEREFORE, That WE the GRAND LODGE
 aforesaid, reposing special Trust and Confidence in the Prudence
 and Fidelity of our beloved Brethren abovenamed, have Consti-
 tuted and Appointed, and by these Presents do CONSTITUTE and
 APPOINT them, the said William Hull and others, a regular
 LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, under the Title
 and Designation of MERIDIAN LODGE, hereby giving
 and granting unto them and their Successors full Power and Au-
 thority to convene as MASONS, within the Town of WATER-
 TOWN in the County of Middlesex, and Commonwealth aforesaid
 —to receive and enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, and raise
 Master Masons, upon the payment of such moderate compensa-
 tions for the same as may be determined by the said LODGE; also
 to make choice of a Master, Wardens, and other Office-
 Bearers, annually or otherwise as they shall see cause; to re-
 ceive and collect Funds for the relief of poor and distressed Breth-
 ren, their Widows or Children, and in general to transact all mat-
 ters relating to Masonry which may to them appear to be for the
 good of the Craft, according to the ancient Usages and Customs
 of MASONS.

And WE do hereby require the said constituted Brethren to
 attend the GRAND LODGE at their Quarterly Communications,
 and other Meetings, by their Master and Wardens, or by Proxies
 regularly appointed; also to keep a fair and regular Record of all
 their Proceedings, and to lay them before the Grand Lodge when
 required.

And we do enjoin upon our Brethren of the said Lodge that
 they be punctual in the Quarterly payment of such sums as may
 be assessed for the support of the Grand Lodge; that they behave
 themselves respectfully and obediently to their superiors in office,
 and in all other respects conduct themselves as good Masons.

And we do hereby declare the Precedence of the said
 Lodge, in the Grand Lodge and elsewhere, to commence from
 the eleventh day of December, one thousand seven hundred and
 ninety-seven.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We the GRAND MASTER and GRAND WARDENS, by virtue of the Power and Authority to us committed, have hereunto set our Hands, and caused the Seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed, at Boston, this eleventh day of December, Anno Domini 1797, and of Masonry 5797.

ISAIAH THOMAS, Senior Grand Warden,
JOSEPH LAUGHTON, Junior Grand Warden.

BY ORDER OF THE GRAND LODGE :

DANIEL OLIVER, Grand Secretary.

At this point we regret to record the fact that the original charter, and all the record-books and papers of the Lodge, with the exception of the original treasurer's account-book, were destroyed by fire in Natick, Massachusetts, at the burning of Walter Morse's block on Pond street, July 20, 1862, in which building Meridian Lodge was then located.

Owing to this lamentable loss, the history of the Lodge from the date of its charter until September, 1862, must of necessity be very meagre and unsatisfactory. We learn from very reliable authority, however, that Meridian Lodge was duly and formally constituted at Watertown on the fifth day of September, 1798; and that the late Gen. William Hull was its first Worshipful Master. The Rev. and Rt. Wor. Bro. T. W. Harris, Grand Chaplin, performed the consecrating ceremonies, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master Josiah Bartlett, M. D., delivered a pertinent address and charge, followed by an address by the Worshipful Master Bro. William Hull. We copy the following newspaper report of the occasion from the Boston Sentinel, published a few days after the event :

MASONIC INSTALLATION* AT WATERTOWN.

POETRY.

Behold the acorn, from a tender root,
Puts forth a weak and unregarded shoot;

* Should read "Constitution."

But Nature's faithful process once begun,
 It gains new strength with each revolving sun;
 Till its firm stem the raging storm defies,
 And its bold branches wave amidst the skies.

On Wednesday, September fifth, 1798, the Meridian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was instituted in ample order at Wattertown. The Rev. Bro. Eliot introduced the formalities by prayer. Vocal and instrumental music followed; the former from original compositions by Mr. Samuel Babcock.

The Rev. Mr. Bentley then pronounced an ingenious, learned, and historical discourse, in which the Robinsons of Europe were exposed in all their imperfections, and the craft ably, boldly, and and candidly vindicated.

The Rev. Bro. Harris, Grand Chaplain, performed the consecrating duties, and the M. W. Grand Master and Wor. Bro. Hull each delivered pertinent and adapted charges.

The fraternity then repaired to one of the best entertainments ever furnished so large an assembly, and which did infinite honor to Bro. Welles, the provider.

After dinner patriotic toasts were given, and the Lodges closed at an early hour. Among the toasts, after the Grand Lodge had retired, was the following, which for point is rarely equalled:

May we never have a war without a Washington, a Shay without a Lincoln, nor a Morse without a Bentley.

After dinner Bro. Williamson, Bro. Jackson, and several assisting brethren, gave a number of Masonic airs, and the patriotic songs of "Adams and Liberty," "Hail Columbia," etc., in the most finished style of melody. The following are the toasts given by the R. W. Master of Meridian Lodge:

1. The President of the United States.
2. Brother Washington: The ornament of Masonry and of men.
3. Most Worshipful Josiah Bartlett: May his exertions in the cause of Masonry be crowned with a never-fading laurel.
4. May universal relief be afforded to our distressed brethren.
5. A generous enemy whose light is not darkness.
6. May the light of every good Mason be kindled in life, enlighten his death, and blaze through eternity.

7. Regular constituted Lodges: May they ever keep in view the principles of the order.

8. The American Fair: May their virtues never want defenders while Masonry exists.

9. May the virtue of Freemasonry in America ever be a positive contradiction of the principles of the illuminati.

10. May virtue and honor ever distinguish the craft.

11. The Reverend clergy: May their exertions in the cause of religion ever be crowned with success.

12. May the fragrance of a good report, like a sprig of accassia, bloom over the head of every departed brother.

13. Liberty and Independence, the blessings which are purchased by our valor: May they descend unsullied to posterity.

14. May all Free and Accepted Masons prefer the luxury of doing good to all other luxuries.

15. The Arts and Sciences.

16. The Day.

June 10, 1811.

Nothing of importance can be learned from the date of institution up to the present time except that on this date (June 10, 1811) the Most Worshipful Grand Master in Grand Lodge granted to the members of Meridian Lodge permission to change their location from Watertown to Needham, Norfolk County, Mass., now known as Wellesley Hills; the Lodge having been located in Watertown less than fourteen years.

The home of the Lodge in Needham (Wellesley Hills) was in what was then known as Smith's Tavern, on the Boston and Worcester Turnpike, and kept by Bro. David Smith, who erected the building a few years before the removal of the Lodge. The building is now known as the Elm Park Hotel.

At the dedication of their Hall in this building, which took place at a regular communication on the afternoon of July first, 1811, the Rev. Bro. Charles Train, A. M., minister of the Baptist Society in Framingham, Mass., pronounced the following dedicatorial sermon before the Lodge:

S E R M O N .

THE God of Nature has everywhere expressed His love of beauty, happiness, and order. If we take only a superficial view of His spacious material temple, framed by His infinite wisdom, and reared by His Almighty power, this truth must strike our minds with irresistible force. His footstool which we inhabit is carved by His skilful hand, and presents to the eye of every beholder a great variety of landscapes diversified by a still greater variety of the liveliest colors, as if to delight the most vivid fancy, to awaken all our curiosity, and to give us a grand idea of beauty. From the bosom of the earth we receive the rich fruits of His munificence, which not only declare His divine benignity, but the tender regard He has for the myriads of His creatures. If we turn our enraptured eyes to heaven, view the relative positions and motions of surrounding worlds; that most delightful canopy strikes our astonished sight with the most sublime idea of order. This fitly frame of Nature the Supreme Architect has pronounced very good; and that it is His pleasure thus to declare His glory. Hereby He gives us clearly to understand that He views no objects with more complacency than His intellectual creatures imitating Himself to the extent of their abilities in works of order, beauty, and benevolence. In this earthly temple He claims, my brethren, and justly claims, a tribute of universal praise. "Every house is builded by some man; but He that built all things is God." We extol the genius, application, and improvement of a brother who devises and executes a curious piece of workmanship which does honor to our art; and shall we not extol that Blessed Being who doeth all things well?—with whose power mortals cannot vie?—with whose glorious works our wretched daubings can bear no comparison?

By the help of inspiration given to His prophets and apostles

to assist our faith, we are led to contemplate a still fairer temple beyond the skies, the only light of which is the ineffable glory of God and of the Lamb. To this should our attention be principally directed. Thither we hope to arrive by the mercy of God, and the improvement of our noble art. To draw forth from us a holy temper and conduct, He has enjoined on us a supreme regard to his glorious character as the great first principle of moral life.

Inspired with these noble sentiments, on this auspicious day we repair with joy to the Temple of Concord, where the Genius of Freemasonry has forever fixed his radiant seat. Your organ on this occasion, whose duty it is to sound aloud the principles and designs of Masonry, has only to regret that some Instrument had not been selected, which might have given a more certain sound, and done more justice to so sublime a theme; but presuming on your candor, with a cheerful freedom will he address himself to those who profess to meet upon the Level.

Light first dawned in the East, and with progressive steps illumined the wide regions of the West: so Masonry, with equal radiance and equal strides, diffused her friendly influence. She seems this day to be advancing in the same direction, seeking a more sequestered spot where she may display her MERIDIAN glory. While she hovers in suspense, having not where to rest her foot, yet eyeing this favorite spot as if determined to descend, we come to bid her welcome within these walls, about to be consecrated to the sacred cause of FRIENDSHIP. But—

We shall first reply to the WHENCE and WHEREFORE of the inquisitive stranger.

The origin of our institution is traced to the remotest ages of antiquity; and the best treatises upon the subject must be supposed to rest in some measure upon oral tradition. The thing itself ever lies locked up in the hearts of good Masons; and of its beginnings and progress much cannot be said till the arts and sciences began to flourish, and knowledge removed the veil of ignorance and prejudice. The evils of life, arising from the corrupt passions of men, were such that a society was formed at an early period of the world under the auspices of FREEMASONRY, by the sacred rules of which the brethren are bound to be faithful, gen-

erous, and kind to each other. Nor can a man become a member of this fraternity except he voluntarily and solemnly first bind himself faithfully to observe those rules and moral principles with which the good of the fraternity not only, but that of mankind, is inseparably connected. If he refuse to support the character of a good and worthy brother, his privileges as such are forfeited so far as he is known. Brotherly love, then, is the root whence germinated our ancient order, and still cherishes our noble art.

Thou best of arts! wherefore wast thou given to men, so rude, so unskilful, struggling with passions so opposite, so ungovernable? This is her soft response: "With inexpressible grief I beheld the sad effects of those evil passions; the fair fabric of nature sullied by their unhallowed touch; the moral world laid in ruins, and misery stalking through the earth. I come with the benevolent design to teach men to control their passions; to educe light from darkness; order from confusion, and happiness. But for me the bosom of the disconsolate widow must forever heave with bursting sighs, and torrents flow from the eye of the orphan." Those who have been the sport of fortune would be left without a friend, and depravity inundate the world with wretchedness. Masonry has human happiness for her object; and those who would understand its true nature and design must study that blest charity which emanates from God; which seeketh not her own; which delights in doing good; and is the bond of perfectness. To be a genuine Mason a man must possess a pious heart; but if he can by any possible means make it the *interest* and *honor* of men who can act from no higher principle, to be benevolent and humane, we deem it no unworthy object.

Like the raven which fed Elijah, Masonry feeds the hungry. She seeks for objects of charity, and proffers her hand to every child of sorrow. Her friendly roof shelters the sons of misery from the storms of adversity. She warms them with her own mantle; feeds them from her table; and delights in diffusing joy around her. She thus relates her deeds of charity: "When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me; because I delivered the poor that cried, the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's

heart to sing for joy. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the fatherless, and the cause which I knew not I searched out."

"The poor ye have always with you," said the benign Author of our holy religion. Knowing that in the present state of things there ever will be objects of charity, she lays aside a portion of her worldly goods, and distributes them to the most worthy and necessitous, as occasion offers. Wherever you behold the landmarks removed, and the flocks violently taken away; wherever the fatherless is plucked from the breast, and a pledge is taken of the poor; wherever the naked are compelled to lodge without clothing, and the sheaf is taken from the hungry; there indeed it is that Masonry never gained, or has lost her influence. Possessing the tender feelings of compassion, she is ever seen to weep over human misery, and not without exertions to meliorate the unfortunate sufferer. She not only opens her treasures to the poor, and sighs for those under the yoke of oppression; but Masonry, taken in its most enlarged sense, embraces everything great and good, useful and ornamental. It is a progressive science: in short, in theory it embraces the whole circle of the sciences, and in practice all the arts which can be profitable to mankind. She grasps at everything which can embellish human nature. She delights to roam through the extensive fields of history, not only to collect the choicest flowers, but to gather the ripe fruits of experience. Astronomy also is her favorite study, which she represents like a woman with a silver crescent on her forehead; an azure mantle, and a watchet-scarf besprinkled with golden stars. Mechanics contributes to her amusement, and affords wonderful assistance; by whose six useful and astonishing powers we can almost weigh the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance. Masonry bestows her first and greatest attention to those useful arts which serve the various purposes of life, and promote the public good; but if you visit her retreat from the busy scenes of life, you will find her attending to the various branches of philology.

The ancient institution of Freemasonry is founded upon a belief in God and revelation. No person can be admitted within the veil of its mysteries who denies either of these all-important truths.

It has nothing to do with the different religious and political creeds of men ; still it enjoins upon all, in the strongest terms, a love to God and our neighbor. It is founded upon those general principles in which good men of every country, sect, and opinion can cheerfully unite ; by which means it conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. The nature and design of Masonry, when rightly understood, must forever spurn from her place of resort every principle prejudicial to mankind. The pure principles of the institution can no more be impeached for their immoral tendency than the Christian religion can be accused of betraying its holy Author. Our rules of moral life are all drawn from the useful implements of our profession ; but are the same in substance with those afterwards revealed to Moses in the moral law. Our working-tools are coeval with operative Masonry ; existed prior to the law given at Mount Sinai ; and as they all have their moral uses, they form a sort of hieroglyphic language which even the rude barbarian can understand who is ignorant of letters. They have another important advantage : These implements, by which we execute the work assigned us by the Worshipful Master, are in our hands, or directly under the eye, and serve continually to remind us of our duty. The very badge of a Mason is an emblem of innocence ; and the principles by which he engages to regulate his life are such as to preserve that innocence unspotted.

The best institutions on earth have been shamefully abused, as well by their professed friends as by their avowed enemies. Even the benign religion of Jesus cannot be excepted. "Salt is good ; but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned ? it is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill ; but men cast it out." As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is religion in the hand of a hypocrite, or Masonry in the hand of an unprincipled monster.

Masons are bound by the principles of their art to demean themselves as good members of society ; as quiet and peaceable subjects ; to be true to their government, and just to their country. They are by no means to countenance disloyalty or rebellion ; but patiently submit to legal authority, and conform with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which they live.

Brotherly love, relief and truth, are the massive columns which support the Masonic edifice ; and while sincerity and fair dealing are the faithful sentinels, there can be no avenue for hypocrisy and deceit. Truth is a divine attribute, and is the foundation of every virtue. Brotherly love firmly cements every part of our fair fabric, and teaches us to regard the whole human family as created by one Almighty Parent, by whose laws they are obligated to aid, support, and protect each other. Relief to the distressed follows as a necessary duty particularly incumbent on Masons, as it is the grand object of their benevolent institution ; the basis on which we form our friendship, and establish our connections. Justice, Temperance, Fortitude and Prudence are the four cardinal virtues in which every Mason should endeavor to excel. By a faithful observance of these sacred principles we become a band of brothers, a Temple of Concord fitly framed together. Here no contention should exist save only that laudable emulation of who best can work, and best can agree. To this ancient and magnificent temple, whose lofty spire towers above the clouds, the good and worthy of every nation, without regard to the adventitious appendages of fortune, have free access here to sacrifice on the altar of Charity.

If in the minds of any it remain a question why the avenues of an institution so good in its nature and design, so correct in its principles, should be guarded with such vigilance ; why the mysteries of Masonry, which professes to be founded on principles of universal philanthropy, be not divulged, that all may share its benefits, we answer : If all the excellences of our noble art were divulged there would be some who, being destitute of moral principle and a love of order, would not conform to the wholesome laws of the institution, and therefore ought not to share its privileges and honors. The benevolent design of the Christian religion none can doubt, nor dispute the correctness of its principles ; but did the Son of God receive all mankind within the pale of His church ? No ! none but those who professed to admire the glorious work of redemption ; their interest in it, and their determination through grace to follow the Redeemer ; and he that afterward had the baseness to betray his Master, went and hung himself. So let it be in Masonry : instead of bestowing our privi-

leges and honors upon idleness, dishonesty and extravagance, without discrimination, we will hold out the reward to the good and faithful only.

As a further encouragement to industry and virtue, there are different degrees in the Masonic art, that if any in the first prove themselves unworthy, they may be deprived of the higher honors in reserve for those only who are faithful and meritorious. This important consideration ought to dissipate the groundless suspicion sometimes excited by those mystic rites whereby we readily distinguish the brethren of our order, and ascertain their proficiency in the royal art. They form a universal language by which Masonic brethren of distant climes converse together, make known their wants, and obtain relief.

A just delicacy to the fairer part of my audience imperiously demands an apology for excluding them, perhaps against their will, from our Masonic fraternity, seemingly as if unworthy of our confidence. No doubt they sometimes feel aggrieved, and utter their complaints against such rudeness. But their delicate nerves were never formed for such masculine employment. Nature never designed them for statesmen nor mechanics; for husbandmen nor soldiers. For them it is more becoming to lay their hands to the spindle and distaff, and look well to the ways of the household, than to perform the drudgery of an Entered Apprentice, or even to wield the Master's trowel. The white lambskin apron would no more add to their charms than a coat of mail; nor could their delicacy better brook such indignity than the duties of the camp. Nor let it be understood that the far dearer part of ourselves is forgotten because we do not instruct them in the art, and confer upon them the honors of Masonry. So far from this, we provide for them when we provide for ourselves; and they share all the benefits of the institution without any of its hardships. The widows and orphans of our deceased brethren shall ever stand first upon the list of our objects of charity. Yea, more: they are engraved upon the hearts of good Masons, and in us they shall ever find a brother and a friend. We trust, then, they will be content to let us improve the different orders of architecture; plow our fields; bear home the sheaves of harvest; bring the fruits of our labors and lay them at their feet: our all is theirs.

In return we only ask them to receive us to their arms when we return from labor to refreshment, and to smooth our pillows when we are weary by our toil. While they thus superintend their domestic concerns, we their husbands, fired with our noble art, if need require, with a sword in one hand will labor with the other ; and if danger approach to jeopardize our country, we will stem the surges of the ocean ; we will vanquish our foe in battle to secure their safety and their happiness. Masonry endears every social tie, and in its fullest exercise binds man to man, like David and Jonathan, whose souls were knit together in love ; like Damon and Pythias, who willingly could die for each other. This principle of sacred friendship must originate in Heaven. This lovely plant can flourish only in congenial minds when fostered by sincerity and fraternal affection. We come this day to hail our Royal Art, and show the world that we can live like brethren.

To the benevolent cause of Masonry we dedicate these walls. May they impose eternal silence on the lips that would reveal the secrets of our art except to those entitled to receive them. May they ever be devoted to the cause of humanity and virtue, and the Lodge that shall here associate shine like the sun in the zenith of his glory. Never may they echo the dissonance of discord ; but witness the harmony, fidelity, and improvement of MERIDIAN LODGE.

You will permit me, brethren, on this occasion to remind you of the principles and rites of Masonry, so well calculated to teach us our dependence upon the Author of our existence, and upon one another. We brought nothing into the world with us, and it is equally certain we carry nothing out. All our blessings here, and the time we may be allowed to enjoy them, rest entirely with Him who first gave us being. It is His prerogative to build up one and put down another. Although distinctions in society are necessary to preserve subordination and the good of the whole ; yet let it be remembered that the scale of fortune often changes ; sometimes one end of the beam is up, and sometimes the other. Those now blessed with plenty may be reduced to poverty. But if not, "the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no deed of thee ; nor, again, the head to the feet, I have no need

of you." Furthermore, the time is not far distant when all distinctions will cease but that of goodness, and we shall be reduced to a perfect level. Then let no eminence of station make you forget that you are brethren of the same family, engaged in the same pursuits. When you enter these walls, now consecrated to brotherly love and friendship, lay aside all animosity and strife; cherish an ardent love for the brethren; and may no root of bitterness ever spring up among you. Act in all respects like Masons, both within and without the Lodge. Our principles are such as must inevitably, from the nature and fitness of things, promote the good, and conciliate the esteem of mankind, if they be not grossly violated. Endeavor to maintain a consistency of character, and never profess one thing and practise another. If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, give them out of the abundance which a kind Providence has lent you, those things which are needful to the body; and although the hand of charity must first be extended to a distressed, worthy brother, yet your acts of kindness are not to be confined within such narrow, selfish limits; but if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink. Thus overcome evil with good; and like the elders you will obtain a good report

The Worshipful Master will endeavor to fill his elevated station with usefulness and dignity. He will endeavor to lay out the work to the best advantage, and give the craft those necessary and important lessons of instruction which will enable them to labor in the cause of Masonry with pleasure and dispatch. The subordinate officers will also study to fill their respective offices of love with correctness and punctuality; will superintend the work, give each laborer his hire, that none may feel dissatisfied. They will endeavor to excite a laudable emulation by rewarding all according to their merit; and if any man will not work, neither let him eat.

The craft on their part will cheerfully perform the task assigned them with neatness, and without the least clashing of hammers or axes; drawing a moral improvement from every implement they may have occasion to use, and from every piece of workmanship they may be called to perform. "Except the Lord shall build the house, they labor in vain that build it." May the Divine

blessing rest upon you, that through grace you may rebuild that Temple of Innocence which the apostasy demolished.

Death will soon level all human greatness with the dust, and the Great Artificer of the universe will come to inspect our work. Then let the Plumb admonish us to walk uprightly ; the Compass to limit our desires, the Rule to observe our duty ; and the Line, the criterion of moral rectitude, to avoid dissimulation in word and action, and to direct our steps to the path which leads to immortality. May the Square teach us to regulate our actions by rule and line, and to harmonize our conduct by the principles of morality and virtue ; and the Holy Scriptures, that sure Word of prophecy and light that shineth in a dark place, teach us the whole duty of man, guide us into all truth, and conduct us to the Temple of Happiness.

Let us remember, my brethren, that not only the eyes of the world are upon us ; but that also of the All-seeing God whose glory fills the Heavens, the glorious Temple above. Let prudence and circumspection, therefore, guide our steps, both without and within the secret veil of Masonry. May the Divine Presence be the light of our path, that we may embark in that Ark of Safety which, without fear of injury or danger, will waft us over life's tempestuous sea ; and possess that Anchor which will moor us in that peaceful Harbor where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

At the close of the sermon it was voted unanimously, "That Brothers Peter Lyon, Enoch Wiswall, and Solomon Curtis be a committee to wait on Rev. Bro. Charles Train and thank him for his truly Masonic address delivered this afternoon, and request a copy for the press."

From June 10, 1811, to Sept. 13, 1843, we have no reliable record of the doings of the Lodge ; simply the names of brethren, which have been culled from the accounts of the treasurer's book, which can be found under the head of "Past and Present Members of the Lodge." We have, however, the following clippings from the "Boston Sentinel," and "The Churchman's Maga-

zine," published in June and October, 1813, respectively :

MASONIC NOTICE.

The Festival of St. John's will be celebrated by 'Meridian Lodge June 24th. The brethren of the Masonic Family are invited to attend.

A discourse will be delivered by Rev. and Rt. Wor. Bro. T. N. Harris. The brethren will meet at Bro. D. Smith's Hall [Elm Park Hotel] in Needham [Wellesley Hills] at 10 o'clock, A. M., where tickets for brethren and ladies may be had. The procession will move to the Meetinghouse (West Parish) at half past 10 o'clock.

Per order :

June 9, 1813.

ISAAC TRAIN.

[From "The Churchman's" Magazine for October, 1813.]

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWTON.

On Wednesday last [Sept. 29, 1813] the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of this Commonwealth, by the permission of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, assembled at Newton, under the direction of the Right Worshipful Francis J. Oliver, Esq., and organized in ample form, were escorted by Meridian Lodge and the Church and congregation to the platform erected in front of the site of the Church, when the interesting and solemn ceremonies were preceded by sacred and appropriate music.

The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master having pronounced the stone to be perfect in its form, and suitable to the occasion, the Rev. Dr. Gardiner of Trinity was requested to deposit the silver plate, after reading the inscription, which was as follows :

"In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! This stone, by permission of the Honorable and Right Worshipful Timothy Bigelow, Esq., Grand Master, on the festival of St. Michael and all Angels, 1813, was laid by Francis Johonot Oliver, Esq., Deputy G. M., assisted by the Rev. John Sylvester Gardiner, D.D., Rector of Trinity Church, and the Rev. Asa Eaton, Rector of Christ Church, Boston.

"God save the Church and State!"

ON THE REVERSE :

"St. Mary's Chapel, founded 1812 ; incorporated 1813. His

Excellency Caleb Strong, Esq., LL.D., Governor; His Honor William Phillips, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor; the Right Reverend Father-in-God, Alexander V., by Divine Providence, of the Eastern Diocese, Bishop.

"The land annexed to this Church, containing two acres, is a donation from Samuel Brown, Esq., merchant, of Boston."

REV. ASA EATON, Rector.

SOLOMON CURTIS, }
THOMAS DURANT, } Wardens of St. Mary's Chapel.

These newspaper clippings indicate that in June, 1813, Meridian Lodge celebrated St. John's Day in due and ancient form; and that they acted as escort to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge on September 29, 1813, at the laying of the cornerstone of St. Mary's Episcopal Church at Newton Lower Falls, which is still used as a house of worship by the abovenamed society.

On the 13th day of September, 1843, permission was granted the members of Meridian Lodge to again change their location to Newton Lower Falls, and it is so recorded in the Grand Lodge. We learn from tradition that they then occupied the Wales Tavern, at Newton Lower Falls, and for a short time held meetings at Newton Upper Falls. Its last location in that vicinity, however, was in the building then owned by Bro. Gen. Charles Rice, situated about three hundred feet this side of the bridge which spans the Charles River between the then known towns of Needham and Newton. The building in which the Lodge-room was fitted up was a large dwellinghouse, and is still standing on the original site just near the bridge, on the right hand side as you cross it going towards Newton.

We learn that shortly after the location of the Lodge in this place discord arose among the brethren, and factions were created which nearly wrecked the Lodge. A faithful few, however, foremost of whom was our late brother, Gen. Charles Rice, held the brethren together, and retained the charter.

In 1851 a little band of Masonic brethren in Natick and vicinity, among whom were Dr. John Hoyt, John M. Seaward, Sr., Wor. Malachi Babcock, Charles Herring, Dr. John Wilson, and John Felch, being desirous of improving themselves in the mys-

teries of the "Royal Art," formed themselves into a Lodge of instruction, and called upon Wor. Bro. Malachi Babcock, then of Sherborn, to preside over them. In the winter of 1852 there was a strong desire manifested by this little company of faithful and zealous Master Masons to organize a Lodge in Natick. A committee was appointed from among their number, of which Wor. Bro. Malachi Babcock was chairman, to request from Middlesex Lodge, located at Framingham, permission to petition the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge for a dispensation to organize a Lodge at Natick. The request was refused by Middlesex Lodge deeming it inadvisable to have a Lodge so near their location. For a short time the brethren were disheartened and nonplused as to the next step to take, when it occurred to them that the location of Meridian Lodge, at Needham, was nearer to Natick than Framingham, and therefore held legal jurisdiction over that territory. Accordingly the committee took new courage, and consulted at once with the brethren of Meridian Lodge in reference to granting them permission to petition the Grand Lodge. Gen. Charles Rice, then a prominent member of Meridian Lodge, mentioned above, informed the committee that the interest in Freemasonry was then at a very low ebb in that vicinity; and suggested that they enter into a compact to have Meridian Lodge transferred to Natick, where it was hoped it would have a wider scope for usefulness. This agreement was gladly entered into by the Natick brethren, and the necessary dispensation for the transfer of Meridian Lodge to Natick was granted by Rev. G. M. Randall, D.D., Most Wor. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, March 10, 1852. In the same month the first communication of Meridian Lodge was called in Natick for organization. Wor. Bro. Malachi Babcock, a Past Master of Middlesex Lodge, Framingham, was elected Wor. Master; thus entitling him to the honor of first Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge in Natick. Bro. Isaac M. Fellows was the first candidate for degrees in the Lodge at Natick, and is now (1892) a living member of the Lodge.

We learn that the Lodge continued to flourish with more or less success until July 20, 1862, when it was located in the Walter Morse building, on East Central street. On that date the build-

ing caught fire, and nearly or quite all the property of the Lodge was destroyed by the devouring flames, including the charter and records of the Lodge, which serious loss is and always will be regretted; for at that time the record of the Lodge from December 1797 until July 1862, was destroyed in a few short hours; also the charter which bore the signature of that distinguished patriot and zealous Mason, Past Grand Master Paul Revere. The brethren however were not disheartened, and at once proceeded to provide for the immediate future of the Lodge. A special communication was at once called to meet at the house of the Worshipful Master, Alvin Fuller, on the evening of July 21, 1862. At this meeting Alvin Fuller, W. M., and Bros. J. M. Seaward, Sr., John W. Bacon (afterwards Judge Bacon), James H. Parker, and Nathan Reed were elected to petition the Most Wor. Grand Lodge for a new charter in place of the one destroyed at the recent fire. A committee was also appointed to provide a suitable hall for Lodge meetings.

July 28, 1862.

A Special Communication was held at which Bros. J. H. Parker, Sen. Warden, and J. M. Seaward, Treasurer, were appointed to collect the money due from Dorchester Insurance Company on account of recent loss by fire.

August 6, 1862.

Regular Communication. A committee consisting of Bros. Secretary L. R. Edgerton, Treasurer J. M. Seaward, and George L. Sawin to repair and furnish the hall.*

September 3, 1862.

First meeting in Masonic Hall since fire: Regular Communication and official visit of D. D. Grand Master Henry Goddard. The following dispensation from the Grand Master was read, and is here published, to indicate the spirit of the times:

*The first hall occupied by the Lodge after the fire, was located in Clark's Building, corner of West Central and Main streets.

BOSTON, Mass., August 27, 1862.

TO ALVIN FULLER, W. M. Meridian Lodge,—

Dear Sir and Brother: I have received your communication soliciting that all the requirements of the Grand Lodge be dispensed with so as to admit to the degrees in Freemasonry—

Ephraim Brigham, Simon Mulligan, William H. Brown, ————,
William D. Parlin, Mark Babb, Lewis Wright, ————,

—All of whom, I understand, are well known to you, and are about entering the army for the reasons mentioned in your application; and relying on your discretion and care, I hereby grant this dispensation, enjoining on you as follows:

Let every brother do all he can to instruct these candidates as fully as their limited stay will admit.

And may God bless them in their patriotic efforts to save our country. May He guard and protect them, and return them to us again richly laden with a sense of the Divine Goodness; and in this trying hour may they and all of us be guided by a Wisdom that cannot err, and encompassed in the arms of that Love which is Unchangeable and Everlasting. May all our trials be a discipline to strengthen us for life's duties, and the time soon come when we may again take by the hand every American, and clasp to our hearts again every worthy Masonic brother.

Anxiously but Respectfully Yours,
WILLIAM D. COOLIDGE, G. M.

September 10, 1862.

New Charter granted today by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge in place of one destroyed in recent fire, a copy of which is here given:

NEW CHARTER.

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
BOSTON, Sept. 10, 1862.

WHEREAS, A Charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts on the tenth of December, A. L. 5797, to Brother William Hull and others, "erecting and constituting" them into a "regular Lodge," under the name of "Meridian Lodge," to be holden in the town of Watertown, in the County of Middlesex; and whereas, It has this day been made to appear that the said Charter was destroyed by fire at the recent conflagration,

by which the brethren of said Lodge lost their hall at Natick, the late location of their Lodge, together with all their Lodge-furniture, regalia, etc: Therefore, in consideration of the facts here stated, it was by unanimous vote in Grand Lodge this day,—

Ordered, That the Grand Secretary execute and deliver to the petitioners for the same (being present members of the Lodge) and their associates, a new Charter; granting and continuing to them and their successors the precedence in the Grand Lodge, and all the rights, powers, and privileges which were granted and vested in them by their original Charter.

In compliance with the foregoing Order, the within Charter is this day issued to the petitioners named therein and their associates.

Attest: **CHARLES W. MOORE,**
Grand Secretary.

TO ALL THE FRATERNITY TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

THE M. W. GRAND LODGE of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted MASONS for the COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, sends GREETING:



WM. D. COOLIDGE,
Grand Master.

WHEREAS, a Petition has been presented to us by Alvin Fuller, James H. Parker, Nathan Reed, John M. Seaward, L. R. Edgerton, Charles Rice, E. B. Phillips, A. W. Burks, John M. Seaward, Jr., George L. Sawin, H. F. Felch, Charles A. Davis, Horace B. Hall, James H. Tash, Nathaniel Smith, H. N. Stockbridge, John W. Bacon, George Beard, A. P. Allen, E. Howe, George Jennings, and Calvin Perry, all ANCIENT, FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, praying that they, with all others who shall hereafter join them, may be erected and constituted a regular Lodge of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS; which Petition appearing to us as tending to the advancement of Masonry and the good of the CRAFT:

KNOW YE THEREFORE, That WE, the GRAND LODGE aforesaid, reposing special trust and confidence in the prudence and fidelity of our brethren abovenamed, have constituted and appointed, and by these presents do constitute and appoint them, the said Alvin Fuller, James H. Parker, Nathan Reed, John M. Seaward, L. R. Edgerton, Charles Rice, E. B. Phillips, A. W.

Burks, John M. Seaward, Jr., George L. Sawin, H. F. Felch, Charles A. Davis, Horace B. Hall, James H. Tash, Nathaniel Smith, H. N. Stockbridge, John W. Bacon, George Beard, A. P. Allen, E. Howe, George Jennings, and Calvin Perry, a regular LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, under the Title and Designation of "MERIDIAN LODGE," hereby giving and granting unto them and their successors full power and authority to convene MASONS within the Town of NATICK, in the County of Suffolk, and Commonwealth aforesaid—to receive and enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, and raise Master Masons, upon the payment of such compensation for the same as may be determined by the GRAND LODGE; also to make choice of a Master, Wardens, and other Office-Bearer, annually or otherwise as they shall see cause; to receive and collect funds for the relief of poor and distressed Brethren, their Widows or Children; and in general to transact all matters relating to Masonry which to them may appear to be for the good of the Craft, according to the Ancient Usages and Customs of Masons.

And WE do hereby require the said constituted Brethren to attend the GRAND LODGE at its Quarterly Communications; and other meetings by their Masters and Wardens, or by proxies regularly appointed; also to keep a fair and regular record of all their proceedings, and to lay them before the Grand Lodge when required.

And WE do enjoin upon our Brethren of the said Lodge that they be punctual in the Quarterly payment of such sums as may be assessed for the support of the Grand Lodge; that they behave themselves respectfully and obediently to their superiors in office; and in all other respects conduct themselves as good Masons.

And WE do hereby declare the Precedence of the said Lodge in the Grand Lodge and elsewhere to commence from the Tenth Day of December, A. L. 5797.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, WE the GRAND MASTER and WARDENS, by virtue of the power and authority to us committed, have hereunto set our Hands, and caused the Seal of our Grand Lodge to be affixed at Boston, this Tenth Day of September, Anno Domini One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Two, and of Masonry Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Two.

HENRY CHICKERING, Senior Grand Warden.
PETER C. JONES, Junior Grand Warden.

BY ORDER OF THE GRAND LODGE:

CHARLES W. MOORE, Grand Secretary.

October 1, 1862.

Annual Communication: Worshipful Bro. Malachi Babcock selected Master for ensuing year.

October 10, 1862.

Special Communication called to pass resolutions of condolence to Senior Warden Bro. Nathan Reed, whose son, Nathan Reed, Jr., had recently been killed in battle while defending our country.

November 5, 1862.

Regular Communication and Installation of officers for 1862-3.

September 5, 1863.

By dispensation from Grand Master, Bro. W. W. McCracken was initiated, passed, and raised this evening, previous to his going to the front to serve his country.

September 23, 1863.

The following resolution was passed at regular Communication held this evening:

WHEREAS, Bro. Charles Rice has presented a valuable Bible to Meridian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons:—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Lodge be tendered to him, and the same be placed on the record of the proceedings of this meeting.

October 21, 1863.

Annual Communication and first meeting held in new hall fitted up in Walcott Block, facing the Common on the west side, between West Central and Pond streets.

Bro. James H. Parker elected Worshipful Master.

November 18, 1863.

Official visitation of D. D. Grand Master Rev. J. W. Dadmun, attended by Grand Secretary C. W. Moore and D. D. Grand Marshal A. F. Chapman. Also public installation of officers by D. D. Grand Master and suite.

November 23, 1863.

Funeral of Brother General Charles Rice, an ardent Mason and zealous member of Meridian Lodge. The Lodge was opened

on the Third Degree, at the residence of Charles Rice, Jr., at Needham; conveyed the remains to St. Mary's Episcopal Church at Newton Lower Falls; and after church service the remains were carried to the churchyard and deposited in the earth with the solemn rites of Freemasonry.

December 14, 1863.

Death of Bro. John M. Seaward, Sr., First Treasurer of Meridian Lodge after its transfer to Natick, which position he held without interruption until his death. The Lodge lost in him an honest man, and an upright and zealous Mason.

December 17, 1863.

Masonic funeral over the remains of Bro. John M. Seaward, which, owing to severity of storm, was performed in the Congregational Church, Natick.

January 2, 1864.

Under dispensation, conferred all three degrees upon Samuel Currier, a soldier of the United States Army, this evening.

June 29, 1864.

Masonic funeral over remains of Bro. Samuel A. Bean, at South Natick; Wor. Bro. J. H. Parker officiating as Master, and Rev. Bro. Horatio Alger as Chaplain.

July 13, 1864.

An invitation was received by the Lodge from Committee on the reception of Company H, 13th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, to participate in the proposed reception of the citizens to the Company on their return from the war.

Voted, To accept the same, and take part in the exercises; and that the Wor. Master, Sen. Warden, and Secretary make all necessary arrangements.

September 19, 1864.

Lieutenant George A. Reed, U. S. Army, received the three degrees in Freemasonry this evening under dispensation of the Grand Lodge.

September 27, 1864.

Wor. Bro. John Wilson, M. D., Grand Past Master of the Lodge since its transfer to Natick, died today.

September 29, 1864.

Past Master John Wilson buried today at North Cemetery, Natick, with Masonic honors; Rev. Bro. Horatio Alger acting as Chaplain.

October 12, 1864.

Annual Communication: Past Master Malachi Babcock elected Wor. Master for ensuing year.

October 23, 1864.

Buried with Masonic honors Bro. George Sleicher at North Cemetery. He was a soldier, killed at the battle of Harrison's Landing.

November 9, 1864.

Official visit of D. D. Grand Master Rev. J. W. Dadmun, accompanied by Most Wor. William Parkman, Grand Master of Freemasons in Massachusetts, who installed Wor. Master Malachi Babcock and officers elect for the ensuing year.

April 11, 1865.

Death of Bro. George E. Rockwood, buried with Masonic honors April 18th.

October 4, 1865.

Annual Communication: Wor. Master James H. Parker elected Wor. Master for the ensuing year.

October 18, 1865.

Wor. Master Malachi Babcock raised his son, Fuller M. Babcock, to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

November 1, 1865.

Official visit of D. D. Grand Master Rev. J. W. Dadmun, and public installation of Wor. Bro. James H. Parker and officers elect for the ensuing year, by Right Worshipful Grand Master Charles C. Dame.

May 31, 1866.

The Lodge acted today as escort to Middlesex Lodge of Framingham at the funeral of Bro. George Bellows of that Lodge, in Dell Park Cemetery, at Natick.

October 17, 1866.

Sixty-ninth Annual Communication: Wor. Bro. James H. Parker elected Master for the third time.

October 31, 1866.

Annual official visit from D. D. Grand Master A. A. Burdett and suite, who also installed Wor. James H. Parker and officers elect for the ensuing year.

March 12, 1867.

Death of Bro. Calvin Perry, who was buried with Masonic honors by the Lodge March 14th.

May 15, 1867.

Voted, To attend the dedication of the new Masonic Temple at Boston.

Voted, To purchase a new banner, which is still in the Lodge at this writing (1892).

A communication from the Grand Lodge received, placing a tax of one dollar per annum for thirteen years, on every member of the Lodge, to liquidate the Temple debt.

June 24, 1867.

Saint John's day: The Lodge attended the parade and dedication of the new Masonic Temple at Boston today, and carried in procession for the first time the new banner. The occasion was a "Red-letter day" in the history of Freemasonry in New England, and particularly in Massachusetts. Among the many distinguished guests of the Grand Lodge who were present on that occasion was our distinguished friend and brother, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America.

About fifty brethren were in line, under the direction of Wor. Master James H. Parker. At the conclusion of the ceremonies he Lodge repaired to Wilder's Hotel, on Elm street, where head-

quarters had been secured, and sat down to a sumptuous dinner.

October 9, 1867.

Seventieth Annual Communication : Election of Wor. James H. Parker as Wor. Master for fourth term.

November 1, 1868.

Brother George L. Sawin died suddenly at Washington, D. C., today.

November 6, 1867

Official visit of D. D. Grand Master Cephas Brigham, and installation of Wor. Bro. James H. Parker and officers elect for ensuing year.

July 4, 1868.

Meridian Lodge participated today in the exercises attending the dedication of the Soldiers' Monument at Natick : about forty-eight brethren in line.

October 23, 1868.

Seventy-first Annual Communication : Wor. James H. Parker elected Worshipful Master for the fifth term.

November 19, 1867.

Official visit of D. D. Grand Master Cephas Brigham ; after which the Lodge adjourned to the Town Hall in procession, where the ladies and friends of the brethren were in waiting to witness the public installation of the officers of the Lodge for the year ensuing : at the close of which, the whole company repaired to the Summer-street House, and partook of a banquet.

May 29, 1869.

The Lodge participates in the decoration of Soldiers' graves with Post 68, Grand Army of the Republic, of Natick.

July 21, 1869.

First Communication in new Masonic Hall, Morse's Block, which stood on the present site of Masonic Block. This hall was furnished at a cost of \$1842.27 ; a portion of which was voluntarily contributed by brethren of the Lodge.

June 9, 1869.

Capitular Masonry chartered in Natick: The above date will be noted in the Masonic history of Natick; for upon that day a Charter of the first Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was granted, and was named Parker Chapter, in honor of Wor. Bro. James H. Parker, who was distinguished among his brethren for his Masonic zeal and ability. The following names appear on the Charter of the Chapter:

James H. Parker,	A. H. Bryant,	W. N. Mason,
George J. Townsend, M. D.,	Nathan Reed,	George L. Sleeper,
W. H. Wright,	G. C. Hathaway,	George Beard, M. D.,
L. R. Edgerton,	E. G. C. Thompson,	F. M. Babcock,
C. A. Davis,	H. C. Burnham,	Samuel Currier,
J. B. Fairbanks,	William Howard,	S. O. Daniels.
I. M. Fellows,	L. R. Mitchell,	H. F. Felch,
C. B. Travis,	A. F. Mason,	William Crosby,
Malachi Babcock,	Eli Cozzens,	C. F. Beard,
Nathaniel Smith,	Edwin Coolidge,	F. B. Tilton.

October 20, 1869.

Seventy-second Annual Communication of Meridian Lodge: Election of Bro. Henry C. Burnham as Master of the Lodge; annual official visit of D. D. Grand Master F. Lyman Winship.

November 16, 1869.

Dedication of Masonic Hall in Morse's Block by Most Wor. William S. Gardner, Grand Master, and suite: also installation of Bro. Henry C. Burnham, Wor. Master, and officers elect for ensuing year, by Rt. Wor. Rev. J. W. Dadmun.

At the conclusion of the installation of officers, a Past Master's Jewel was presented to Wor. Past Master James H. Parker, who had presided over the Lodge for five years, and who had been for years untiring in his efforts to promote the interests of the order. At the close of the meeting a large company of the brethren sat down with the Grand Master and suite, and enjoyed a "Royal turkey supper, and a 'feast of reason.'"

December 1, 1869.

D. D. Grand Master F. Lyman Winship present to witness an exemplification of the work on the Third Degree.

October 5, 1870.

Seventy-third Annual Communication, and second election of

Wor. Bro. Henry C. Burnham to the position of Wor. Master.

October 19, 1870.

Voted, To hold a series of Masonic Sociables during the coming season.

November 7, 1870.

Official visit of D. D. Grand Master, and installation of Wor. Bro. H. C. Burnham and officers elect.

December 28, 1879.

Funeral of Bro. Louis E. Partridge, M. D., buried with Masonic honors. He was a skilful physician, an exemplary citizen, an upright and zealous Mason.

May 31, 1871.

Wor. Master Malachi Babcock elected to honorary membership in the Lodge.

September 17, 1871.

Bro. Stephen E. Babb buried by the Lodge today with Masonic honors.

September 27, 1871.

Bro. F. Lyman Winship, D. D., Grand Master, made annual official visit this evening.

October 23, 1871.

Bro. James H. Tash buried today with Masonic honors ; Wor. Master H. C. Burnham and Chaplain Rev. S. E. Root officiating.

October 25, 1871.

Seventy-fourth Annual Communication : Wor. Bro. Henry C. Burnham re-elected Worshipful Master.

November 22, 1871.

Installation of Wor. Master Henry C. Burnham and officers elect by Past Master James H. Parker.

March 20, 1872.

A vote of thanks tendered to Bro. C. F. Herring for an ancient work on Masonry, presented by him to the Lodge.

June 6, 1872.

Natick Commandery Knights Templar chartered on this date

by the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The following are the Charter members :

James H. Parker,	Edwin W. Cozzens,	William Taylor,
William H. Wright,	Loring R. Edgerton,	Walter N. Mason,
Charles A. Davis,	Sumner H. Parker,	George W. Carter,
George J. Townsend, M. D.,	Claudis B. Travis,	E. F. Perry,
Samuel O. Daniels,	George Beard, M. D.	

—All members of Meridian Lodge except Bro. E. F. Perry.

September 2, 1892.

Death of Worshipful Master Henry C. Burnham, the chair in the East vacant, and the Lodge deprived of one of its most ardent and useful members.

September 5, 1872.

Presiding Master, the late Wor. Henry C. Burnham, buried with Masonic honors today ; Wor. Past Master James H. Parker officiating, attended by seventy-four members and eighteen visitors [See Biographies of Past Masters].

October 16, 1872.

Seventy-fifth Annual Communication : Brother William H. Wright elected Worshipful Master.

October 17, 1872.

Bro. Linus Bliss, an initiate of Meridian Lodge, and a prominent citizen of Dover (Mass.), died today. He was born in Connecticut in 1822 ; came to Dover in 1841, and soon after began the manufacture of cigars, and conducted the principal country store in the vicinity.

He was a man of sterling character, with strong convictions of right, and consequently respected by all who knew him.

He held the position of Selectman and Tax Collector of the Town for several years ; and at the time of his death was the Democratic candidate from his District for member of the General Court of Massachusetts. He was buried with Masonic honors by Meridian Lodge October 20th, 1872.

October 23, 1872.

Official visit of D. D. Grand Master Charles A. Welch, who, after the formal inspection of the Lodge, proceeded to install

Wor. Bro. William H. Wright and officers elect into their respective stations for the ensuing year.

November 13, 1872.

A vote of thanks tendered to Wor. Master Wright in appreciation of the sumptuous banquet provided by him to the Lodge on the occasion of the installation of the officers October 23d.

March 2, 1873.

Our late venerable Brother, Moses Eames, Esq., of South Natick, buried with Masonic honors today: sermon by the Chaplain of the Lodge, Rev. Horatio Alger. Bro. Eames was one of the oldest and most faithful Masons in this vicinity, and was one of the signers (and the only one who resided in Natick) of the declaration of the Freemasons of Boston and vicinity during the Anti-Masonic excitement in December, 1831.

He received the degrees of Freemasonry in Massachusetts Lodge Boston in 1818.

April 9, 1873.

The Worshipful Master announced the recent death of Bro. C. C. Cummings. A letter from Indiana was also read, announcing the death of Bro. Green, a member of the Lodge.

September 23, 1873.

Bro. Edward Perry, who recently died in California, where he had been sojourning for his health, buried today with Masonic honors at South Natick.

September 28, 1873.

Masonic services were held today over the remains of our Brother, Millard F. Hutchens, who was cut down by the hand of death just as he was entering upon young manhood.

October 1, 1873.

Seventy-sixth Annual Communication: Re-election of Wor. Bro. William H. Wright as Wor. Master.

October 15, 1873.

Official visitation of Rt. Wor. Charles A. Welch, D. D. G. M.

and suite ; and installation of Wor. W. H. Wright and other officers elect : eighty-nine members and sixty-six visitors present.

January 13, 1874.

Great fire in Natick, in which the whole business portion of the town was destroyed, including the elegantly furnished Masonic apartments of Meridian Lodge. There were saved from this fire the Records, "Lights," Jewels, Banner, and Candlesticks.

January 31, 1874.

Regular Communication at residence of the Secretary, Brother Charles W. Gleason, at which the Worshipful Master William H. Wright formally announced to the Lodge the destruction of the Masonic apartments in the recent fire, and that the Communication was called at this house for the reason that every hall in the village was destroyed. He also presented the following bills :

F. Groom & Company, 4000 Envelopes,	-	-	-	-	\$10 00
Rogers & Greenwood, Painting,	-	-	-	-	15 89
Rogers & Greenwood, Doors, etc.	-	-	-	-	16 39
Guild & Delano, Square and Compasses,	-	-	-	-	25 75
Guild & Delano, Inkstands and Racks,	-	-	-	-	5 75
Stove in Ante room,	-	-	-	-	25 00—\$98 78

—Which he had paid at different times, and which he now wished to present formally to the Lodge.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Wor. Bro. Wright for his generous gift. There was also tendered to the Lodge at this meeting the use of Lodge-room and paraphernalia of Middlesex Lodge of Framingham ; and also of Dalhousie Lodge of Newtonville.

April 2, 1874.

Meridian Lodge performed the Masonic funeral service over the remains of W. H. Ingraham of Cochrane, by request. He was not a member of this Lodge. Senior Warden E. W. Cozzens presided : Rev. Horatio Alger Chaplain.

May 5, 1874.

Bro. George Jennings buried with Masonic honors today at Wellesley : Wor. Master W. H. Wright presiding ; Rev. Horatio Alger Chaplain.

May 25, 1874.

Death of Bro. Edwin W. Cozzens, Senior Warden of the Lodge. He was a pillar of the Lodge, and a most ardent Mason.

May 28, 1874.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Senior Warden Bro. Cozzens. On this occasion the Lodge was under escort of Natick Commandery K. T., and Parker Royal Arch Chapter, all headed by the Natick Brass Band. In the grave at Dell Park Cemetery the body of our brother was deposited with the solemn rites of our ancient institution.

October 21, 1874.

Seventy-seventh Annual Communication: Bro. Daniel H. L. Gleason elected Worshipful Master.

Total membership October 1, 1874, 161.

November 18, 1874.

Installation of Bro. Daniel H. L. Gleason as Wor. Master, and other officers elect for ensuing year. The ceremonies of installation were performed by Wor. Past Master William H. Wright.

June 16, 1875.

First meeting held in the new Masonic apartments, Masonic Block, Natick.

Rev. Bro. Horatio Alger presented to Past Master Willam H. Wright, on behalf of the Lodge, an elegant Past Master's Jewel.

July 14, 1875.

Regular Communication: Voted one hundred dollars for the relief of a deceased brother's family.

The following communication was read by the Secretary:

NATICK, Mass., July 14, 1875.

TO C. W. GLEASON, Esq.,—

Dear Sir and Brother: I take much pleasnr in presenting the "Altar" to Meridian Lodge as a souvenir of my love and good

will. As the centre of the circle is equally distant from its circumference, so may each brother be equally near and equally distant in the circle of our great Masonic Brotherhood.

Very Fraternally,

W. H. WRIGHT.

The Altar is an elegant one, and is now in use by the Lodge. It was unanimously—

Voted, To tender to Worshipful Brother Wright the sincere thanks of the Lodge.

July 16, 1875.

Special Communication for the purpose of dedicating the new Masonic apartments. The ceremonies were performed by Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Charles A. Welch and suite in due and ancient form, in the presence of the brethren, their ladies, and invited guests. At the conclusion of the dedicatorial exercises the company repaired to the Banquet Hall and partook of a feast which had been prepared for the occasion.

Speeches were made by the representatives of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, and members of the Lodge. At the time of the dedication the apartments were said to be the most elegant in this Grand Jurisdiction outside of the Temple in Boston.

The following was the order of exercises of the occasion :

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

DEDICATORY ODE.

ALL hail to the morning that bids us rejoice !

The Temple 's completed: exalt high each voice !

The capstone is finished; our labor is o'er,

And the sound of the gavel shall hail us no more.

Almighty Jehovah, descend now and fill
This Lodge with Thy glory, our hearts with good will :
Preside at our meetings; assist us to find
True pleasure in teaching good will to mankind.

Thy WISDOM inspired the great Institution :
Thy STRENGTH shall support it till Nature expires :
And when the creation shall fall into ruin,
Its BEAUTY shall rise through the midst of the fires !

PRAYER.

SURRENDER OF WORKING-TOOLS BY THE ARCHITECT.

.

EXAMINATION OF THE BUILDING BY GRAND OFFICERS.

.

CEREMONIAL DEDICATION TO FREEMASONRY.

GENIUS of Masonry, descend!
And with thee bring thy spotless train;
Constant our sacred rites attend,
While we adore thy peaceful reign!

CEREMONIAL DEDICATION TO VIRTUE.

BRING with thee VIRTUE, brightest Maid!
Bring LOVE, bring TRUTH and FRIENDSHIP here;
While kind RELIEF will lend her aid
To smooth the wrinkled brow of CARE.

CEREMONIAL DEDICATION TO UNIVERSAL BENEVOLENCE.

COME, CHARITY, with goodness crowned,
 Encircled in thy heavenly robe;
 Diffuse thy blessings all around,
 To every corner of the globe!

• • • • •

INVOCATION BY THE GRAND CHAPLAIN.

To HEAVEN's high Architect all praise:
 All praise, all gratitude be given;
 Who deigned the human soul to raise
 By mystic secrets sprung from Heaven!

• • • • •

ADDRESS.

CLOSING HYMN.

O GOD, Thou hast reared, in Thy glorious might,
 The Temple of Nature, whose arch is the sky;—
 Exalted its pillars, and covered it o'er
 With starry-decked heavens in beauty on high.

With faith like the fathers, we humbly uprear
 This lowlier Temple of Brotherly Love:
 Thy Book on its Altar, Thy Trust in our hearts,
 We consecrate all to the Master above!

O ever may WISDOM be found in its EAST,
 Contriving for all in true Friendship and Love:
 The STRENGTH of King Hiram abound in the WEST,
 Supporting the fabric with Faith from above!

May the SOUTH glow with BEAUTY, the whole to adorn,
And ever remind us of HIM who was slain :
Like HIM may we suffer ; like HIM, when we die,
Be raised from the grave unto glory again !

BENEDICTION.

September 15, 1875.

Regular Communication, and official visitation of Rt. Wor. George F. Homer, D. D. G. M. of the Fourth Masonic District Work ; Master Mason's Degree.

October 18, 1875.

Seventy-eighth Annual Communication : Total membership 165. Before proceeding to the election of officers, Wor. Master Gleason thanked the brethren and the officers for the support they had given him during the past year ; but believing the best interests of the craft would be subserved by his declining to hold the position another year, he asked the brethren to refrain from voting for him.

Proceeded to the election ; and Dr. George James Townsend was chosen Wor. Master for the ensuing year.

October 27, 1875.

Special Communication and installation of Dr. George James Townsend as Wor. Master by Wor. Past Master William H. Wright.

November 24, 1875.

Special Communication, at which a communication was received inviting the Lodge to attend the funeral of our distinguished townsman, Hon. Henry Wilson, late Vice President of the United States. Being unable to appear in public procession without special dispensation from the Grand Lodge, the invitation was declined.

January 25, 1876.

Bro. Morris Tucker Ferrin buried today with Masonic honors, in Dell Park Cemetery; Wor. Bro. Townsend performing the ceremonies, assisted by Rev. Bro. Horatio Alger.

March 8, 1876.

Regular Communication: Re-instatement of Bro. William W. Mitchell. Wor. Bro. J. H. Parker announced that Bro. William W. Mitchell, of So. Framingham, was present, and stated that he was a member of Meridian Lodge in good and regular standing at the time of the fire in 1862, in which the Lodge lost not only its property and furniture, but also its Records, By-laws, and Charter; that circumstances had kept him from signing the new By-laws, or attending the meetings; that he had never been suspended; and that he had now come to us desiring to be restored to active membership.

Voted, That he be restored by signing By-laws.

June 15, 1876.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending funeral of our late Bro. Alpheus W. Burks, an initiate of Meridian Lodge in 1854. Bro. Burks was the undertaker of the town for many years, a prominent and respected citizen, and an ardent Mason. His remains were interred in Dell Park Cemetery with Masonic honors; Worshipful Bro. Townsend presiding.

August 2, 1876.

New code of By-laws adopted.

The Wor. Master presented to Wor. Past Master D. H. L. Gleason a beautiful Past Master's Jewel, on behalf of the brethren of Meridian Lodge, in recognition of his eminent services to the craft.

August 30, 1876.

Fifty dollars was subscribed for relief of a distressed brother.

A vote of thanks was extended to Bro. W. F. Shattuck for the gift of the decorations on the crockery of the Lodge.

September 27, 1876.

A Communication from the Grand Lodge Committee on Char-

ity was read, informing the Lodge that the Mrs. Smith who recently applied to the Charity Committee of Meridian Lodge as the widow of a Mason, in destitute circumstances, and to whom the Committee gave twenty-five dollars in charity, is an impostor, and unworthy of assistance.

Official visit of Rt. Wor. Edward C. Damon, District Deputy Grand Master, and suite.

November 1, 1876.

Seventy-ninth Annual Communication: Total membership 179. It was—

Voted, To increase the dues from \$2.00 per annum to \$3.00.

Worshipful George J. Townsend, M. D., elected Master second term.

November 22, 1876.

Special Communication, at which Wor. George J. Townsend, M. D., was installed Master, and the other officers elect for the ensuing year, by Wor. Master William H. Wright.

January 24, 1877.

Brethren subscribed seventeen dollars for the relief of a destitute brother.

February 15, 1877.

Special Communication to attend the funeral of our late Brother Alexander T. Smith, who was suddenly stricken down by death while calling at the home of his late uncle, Vice President Henry Wilson. The Lodge proceeded in procession to the cemetery with the remains of our late brother, and deposited them in the tomb with the funeral rites of Freemasonry.

February 21, 1877.

An invitation was received from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to attend the Centennial Celebration of the Independence of the Grand Lodge on the eighth day of March, 1877.

March 28, 1877.

Brother Calvin Dunn, an initiate of Meridian Lodge, died this morning after a protracted illness.

March 30, 1877.

The mortal remains of our late Brother Calvin Dunn were deposited in the earth today with Masonic honors; Wor. Master George J. Townsend presiding, assisted by Rev. J. P. Sheafe, Jr., as Chaplain.

The brethren subscribed \$42.50 for charity at this special Communication.

April 25, 1877.

Fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents was subscribed for the relief of a deceased brother's widow.

May 1, 1877.

Sorrow and death seem to be the portion of the Lodge during the present period. This morning Bro. Micah Hobbs died after a lingering and painful illness. He was an initiate of Mount Hope Lodge, Hope, Maine.

May 3, 1877.

Touay Meridian Lodge wends its way to Dell Park Cemetery, the city of the dead, and deposits, with the solemn ceremonies of our honorable institution, the remains of Bro. Micah Hobbs in the silent grave; Bro. Senior Warden S. H. Bent acting as Wor. Master, and the Rev. J. P. Sheafe, Jr., assisting as Chaplain.

June 28, 1877.

Death has again visited our afflicted Lodge, and the special Communication held today was called for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Albert Henry Bryant, M. D., a skillful physician of this town and vicinity. He was an initiate of Meridian Lodge November, 1868. His remains were conveyed to Dell Park Cemetery by Meridian Lodge, under escort of a delegation of Parker Royal Arch Chapter, and buried with Masonic honors; Worshipful Master George J. Townsend, M. D., presiding.

September 19, 1877.

Official visitation of Rt. Worshipful Edward C. Damon, D. D. Grand Master.

September 20, 1877.

A large number of the brethren, with their ladies, call upon

our venerable brother and Past Master, Malachi Babcock, this eve to pay their respects and tender their congratulations to him and his wife upon their golden wedding anniversary.

October 17, 1877.

Sorrow! sorrow!!—Special Communication called today at 1.30 P. M., for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Loring R. Edgerton, who became a member of the Lodge in its early history in Natick. He was an ardent worker in the cause of Masonry, and at one time was its Treasurer and Secretary. In announcing his death to the Lodge, the Worshipful Master, referring to him, spoke of the "high position he held in the esteem of the people as a citizen and business man, and of the confidence and affection he commanded among his brethren in Freemasonry; of his desire and intention to secure a competency for himself and family, and which doubtless he would have accomplished but for the physical disability which came upon him, continued for years, and now terminated by death."

The Worshipful Master also referred to Mrs. Edgerton, who with a true wife's devotion took upon herself almost the entire care of the sufferer, attending upon him both day and night to the end, declining fraternal aid in the service which was freely proffered. At 2 o'clock the Lodge, under escort of Natick Commandery, Knights Templar, and Parker Royal Arch Chapter, preceded by the Natick Cornet Band, proceeded to his late residence and received the remains, and conveyed them to the Congregational Church, where the public funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Bro. Asa E. Reynolds, of the Baptist Church; at the conclusion of which, the lines were reformed, and the brethren marched in solemn procession to Dell Park Cemetery. Here the remains were deposited with the funeral rites of Freemasonry.

October 17, 1877.

Eightieth Annual Communication: Total membership, 178.
Election of Bro. Silas H. Bent as Worshipful Master.

The brethren subscribed \$61.25 for the relief of the family of a deceased brother.

October 25, 1877.

Bro. Silas H. Bent installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by Worshipful Past Master William H. Wright; also the other officers elect.

October 29, 1877.

Bro. Theodore E. Walcott, an initiate of this Lodge, was buried with Masonic honors at Dell Park Cemetery today; Wor. Master S. H. Bent performing the ceremony. The Lodge was under escort of Parker Royal Arch Chapter, of which our deceased brother was a member.

November 24, 1877.

Voted, To hold a series of five sociables.

December, 1877.

Wor. Past Master George J. Townsend, M. D., was appointed D. D. Grand Master for the Fourth Masonic District of Massachusetts by Most Worshipful Grand Master Charles A. Welch, Esq.

May 15, 1878.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Pratt's Orchestra for music furnished at our recent sociables.

Bro. Edwin Emerson, an initiate of Meridian Lodge, died today.

May 26, 1878.

Special Communication at 5 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of conveying the remains of our late Brother Edwin Emerson to the Railroad Station, preparatory to its transportation to Garfield, Maine.

July 23, 1878.

Bro. George B. Whitney, an initiate of Meridian Lodge, and presiding High Priest of Parker Royal Arch Chapter, was killed this morning on the Main-street crossing of the Boston and Albany Railroad by the Express Train going east, at about 8.30, A. M.

Bro. Whitney was in the prime of life, honored and respected by all who knew him. His sudden and sad death has cast a cloud of sorrow over the community. He was esteemed by his brethren as a true and faithful Mason, and by the town as an honorable citizen, and an active representative of the industries of the community.

July 25, 1878.

The Lodge was held in Special Communication today for the purpose of paying the last tribute of respect to our lamented and beloved Brother George B. Whitney. The business of the town was entirely suspended; and owing to the large concourse of citizens who desired to attend the funeral of our late brother, the religious services were held in Concert Hall. At the close of the services at the Hall, the remains were taken in charge by Meridian Lodge, and under escort of Parker Royal Arch Chapter and the employees of the shoe factory with which the deceased had been connected, were borne to Dell Park Cemetery, where they were deposited in the tomb with the solemn ceremonies of the ancient order which he had so much loved in life.

September 18, 1878.

Special Communication and official visitation of Rt. Worshipful George J. Townsend, M. D., District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourth Masonic District, and suite.

October 9, 1878.

Eighty-first annual Communication: Total membership, 200. Worshipful Silas H. Bent re-elected Master for the ensuing year.

October 24, 1878.

Special: Installation of Wor. Silas H. Bent and officers elect for the ensuing year by Rt. Wor. George J. Townsend, M. D., D. D. G. M.

November 6, 1878

Voted, To hold a series of Sociables in connection with Aurora Chapter O. E. S.

May 7, 1879.

Voted, To grant the use of Masonic apartments to Aurora Chapter O. E. S. for an unlimited time; the rent to be agreed upon later.

July 2, 1879.

Wor. Master reported that at the last Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge a per capita tax of \$15.00 on each affiliated Master Mason in the State was voted for the purpose of liquidating the Grand Lodge debt on the Temple.

September 24, 1879.

Official visitation of Rt. Worshipful George J. Townsend, M. D., District Deputy Grand Master.

October 29, 1879.

Eighty-second Annual Communication: Total membership, 193. Permanent debt of Lodge, \$1660.00.

Wor. Silas H. Bent re-elected for third term.

November 26, 1879.

Installation of Wor. Silas H. Bent and officers elect for the ensuing year, by Rt. Wor. George J. Townsend, M. D., District Deputy Grand Master.

November 29, 1879.

Death of Bro. Charles Francis Herring, an initiate of Meridian Lodge in 1863. He was employed as Clerk in the Third Auditor's office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., where he died this morning; requesting, shortly before his death, that his remains be sent to his home in Natick and buried with Masonic honors by Meridian Lodge, of which he was a member at the time of his demise.

December 3, 1879.

In Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Charles F. Herring. The ceremonies were performed by Wor. Master Bent, at the grave, in Dell Park Cemetery.

January 14, 1880.

Special Communication held for the purpose of discussing the advisability of holding a Grand Masonic Fair for the purpose of raising money to extinguish the debt of the Lodge, which now amounts to \$1660.00.

Voted, To refer the matter to a Committee to report at next meeting.

November 20, 1880.

Bro. Joseph H. Watson died today. He became affiliated with Meridian Lodge in 1866.

January 21, 1880.

In regular Communication it was—

Voted, To hold a Masonic Fair; and the following brethren were chosen as the Executive Committee to have entire charge of the arrangements: Wor. William H. Wright, Rt. Wor. George J. Townsend, M. D., A. B. Lyon, W. H. Bent, John B. Fairbanks, and Charles A. Davis.

January 22, 1880.

Our late Brother Joseph Henry Watson was buried today with Masonic honors; Wor. S. H. Bent presiding.

February 23, 1880.

The Committee having completed all arrangements for the grand Masonic Fair which was opened tonight, and continued on the evenings of the 24th, 25th, and 26th, excellent entertainment was provided for each of these evenings, and over two thousand persons participated in the pleasure which the Fair afforded. One hundred presents, ranging from a seven hundred dollar Vose and Son Piano down, and valued at over fifteen hundred dollars, were given away to the lucky holders of season tickets, which were sold at one dollar each. The occasion not only proved to be a social success, but also its financial success far exceeded the expectations of those who were so active in promoting it. The Committee did splendid work, and deserved great credit; but they were handsomely and strongly supported by every active member of the Lodge, who gave their time and money freely to promote the social success of the project.

After the close of the Fair the Committee were able to assure the brethren that a profit of over three thousand dollars would be turned into the depleted treasury of the Lodge: And thus, on the evening of February 26th, ended one of the greatest and most successful fairs ever held in this vicinity.

February 25, 1880.

Regular Communication held in the Red Cross Room of the Commandery, owing to the Lodge Rooms being open to visitors from the Masonic Fair progressing in Concert and Clark's north and south Halls. Eight applications for the degrees were presented to the Lodge this evening.

March 24, 1880.

The Masonic Fair Committee report the net profits from the Fair to have been \$3320.72; of which \$1900.99 was expended to cancel the permanent and floating debt of the Lodge, leaving a balance of \$1419.73 in the hands of the Treasurer.

CHARITY FUND ESTABLISHED.

Brother Charles L. Hosmer, Treasurer of the Masonic Fair Committee, made the following motion, which was unanimously adopted, viz:

"That the sum of one thousand dollars of the amount now in the hands of the Treasurer of Fair Committee be deposited in the Natick Five Cents Savings Bank as a 'Charity Fund' of Meridian Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in the names of William H. Wright, John B. Fairbanks, and Charles H. Whitcomb; they to act as trustees of the above fund, to remain in the above Bank subject to the vote of the Lodge, and the interest only to be applied for the purposes of charity, and the remaining amount in the hands of the Fair Committee be placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Lodge."

Two hundred dollars from the treasury was devoted to the relief of a deceased brother's family this evening.

March 27, 1880.

By request of Temple Lodge, of East Boston, Meridian Lodge today buried with Masonic honors Bro. William Fogg, an initiate of Temple Lodge, who died in Natick shortly after receiving the Master Mason's degree.

His remains were conveyed to the cemetery at Wellesley, where they were deposited with the solemn rites of Freemasonry, in accordance with his dying request. After the return of the Lodge to their apartments Wor. Master A. T. Hutchins, of Temple Lodge, addressed the brethren, thanking them for the fraternal courtesies extended, and invited them to the Wilson House to dine with him and the delegation from Temple Lodge.

April 21, 1880.

The following communication was read :

TEMPLE LODGE, East Boston, April 1, 1880.

Resolved, That the thanks of Temple Lodge be tendered to the Worshipful Master, officers, and members of Meridian Lodge of Natick for their courteous attention and kindness to Bro. William Fogg during his sickness, and for their fraternal response to our request to give our deceased brother a Masonic burial.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to transmit to Wor. Brother Silas H. Bent a copy of this resolution.

At a regular Communication of Temple Lodge held in April, the above resolution was adopted.

A true copy from the records. Attest :

||SEAL||

H. B. BUTLER.

September 15, 1880.

Third annual official visit of Rt. Worshipful George J. Townsend, M. D., District Deputy Grand Master and suite.

October 13, 1880.

Eighty-third Annual Communication : Out of debt for the first time in many years, with a total membership of 199.

Edward H. Wilson elected Worshipful Master.

November 10, 1880.

Worshipful Past Master George J. Townsend, M. D., installed Bro. Edward H. Wilson Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge ; also the other officers elect for the ensuing year. At the conclusion of the installation a Past Master's Jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Silas H. Bent by Bro. F. O. Baston on behalf of the brethren of the Lodge.

Voted, To procure new collars for the officers of the Lodge ; also a set of working tools, consisting of a Twentyfour-Inch gauge and a common Gavel.

January 12, 1881.

Voted, To hold a Sociable January 26th, with the understanding that there shall be no dancing.

February 9, 1881.

The Worshipful Master announced that he had recently learned of the death of Charles Derby Sanborn, an initiate of this Lodge, which occurred in Colorado about the first of October, 1880.

March 9, 1881.

Wor. Bro. B. H. Dow, of Pequossette Lodge, Watertown, Massachusetts, presented to Meridian Lodge a relic in the form of a notice of a meeting issued by Meridian Lodge in 1802, when located in that town. It was signed by Walter Hunnewell, who was Secretary of the Lodge at that date.

March 25, 1881.

Bro. Alfred P. Allen, an old member of Meridian Lodge, died today, after a long and painful illness. Before his death he requested his old Lodge to bury him with Masonic honors.

Sunday, March 27, 1881.

Remains of our late Brother Alfred P. Allen buried today with Masonic honors at Dell Park Cemetery ; Wor. Master Edward H. Wilson performing the ceremony, assisted by our Rev. Brother Daniel Dorchester as Chaplain.

May 25, 1881.

Voted To appropriate twenty dollars to decorate the exterior

of Masonic Block, on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town. The exercises connected with the centennial of the town occurred on the first day of June. They consisted of a parade and banquet, at which there were present as guests of the town His Excellency John D. Long, Governor of the Commonwealth, and other State officers. Among those who took prominent part in the exercises of the day were Brother John B. Fairbanks, who was President of the day, and Wor. Bro. William H. Wright, who acted as Chief Marshal of the parade.

August 3, 1881.

A communication was received from Bro. Enoch Taylor, President of the Masonic Relief Association of Cincinnati, Ohio, announcing that our Brother William Taylor was stricken with a sunstroke in that city, and was in a very critical condition.

September 7, 1881.

The Worshipful Master announced the death of Bro. William Taylor, an initiate of Meridian Lodge. He died on the 16th day of August, in Cincinnati, from the result of a sunstroke, and was buried with Masonic honors by N. C. Harmony Lodge, of that city. Appropriated \$77.00 for the relief of a distressed brother. Also official visitation of Rt. Worshipful Thomas Davis, District Deputy Grand Master.

During the evening the presence of Most Worshipful Grand Master Samuel C. Lawrence was announced. A Committee appointed by the Wor. Master immediately repaired to the ante-room and escorted the Most Worshipful and suite to the Lodge-room, and by invitation of the Worshipful Master, assumed the chair and appealed to the brethren to commute the Grand Lodge tax to assist in extinguishing the debt of the Temple, and thus increase the honor and respect with which Masonry is held in the minds of the people of the world.

At the close of the meeting all repaired to the Banquet Hall and partook of a banquet prepared for the occasion.

September 19, 1881.

Our brother, the President of the United States of America,

died today. The event has overwhelmed the country in grief and sorrow. On the first day of October, 1881, the following circular letter was issued to all the Lodges in the Grand Jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge :

GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS OF ANCIENT
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER, }
BOSTON, October 1, 1881. }

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTERS, OFFICERS, AND BRETHREN OF
THE LODGES IN MASSACHUSETTS :

The death of our illustrious Brother, JAMES ABRAHAM GARFIELD, President of the United States, occurred on the 19th of September, 1881.

This event has overwhelmed our own nation in grief, and has touched profoundly the sensibilities of the world. Few men have been more beloved, and few statesmen have brought to the discharge of great public trusts a more conciliating temper, a broader intelligence, a loftier patriotism, or a deeper sense of public duty. He laid these great gifts upon the altar of his country, and every citizen of the Republic feels his death to be a personal loss.

It is hardly necessary to enjoin the Lodges to take part in the observance of this season of national sorrow. They will put themselves in accord with the universal public sentiment by adopting the usual symbols of mourning. While we enshrine his memory in our hearts, let us give outward expression to our grief, and bear our testimony to the beauty of his life, and the priceless worth of his example. Love and honor to the great good man!

SAMUEL C. LAWRENCE,
Grand Master.

Attest : TRACEY P. CHEEVER.



October 5, 1881.

Eighty-fourth Annual Communication : Total membership, 197.
Worshipful Edward H. Wilson elected Master second term.

November 2, 1881.

Worshipful Brother Edward H. Wilson, Master, and other officers elect, were installed by Worshipful Past Master Charles P. Knowlton, of Alpha Lodge, South Framingham.

November, 1881.

Rev. Bro. Horatio Alger died today. He was the pastor for many years of the Unitarian Church at South Natick, and for a long period Chaplain of the Lodge. He was the father of Horatio Alger, Jr., who has attained a world-wide reputation as an author of boys' story-books. He was a public-spirited citizen, and for a number of years was identified with the schools of the town as a member of the school board. He lived and died "a true and faithful Mason."

January 4, 1882.

A vote of thanks was tendered this evening to Brothers Oliver Wood, and George Brierly of Meridian Lodge, and Wor. Brother Julius M. Woods of Montgomery Lodge of Milford, for the gift to the Lodge of an appropriate sign, which has been placed over the stairway leading up to the Masonic Apartments.

It was voted, To request the Past Masters of the Lodge, and families of deceased Past Masters to furnish their portraits to adorn the walls of the apartments.

The brethren contributed \$21.00 for the relief of a Master Mason who is sojourning in this vicinity.

September, 1882.

Voted, To commute the Grand Lodge per capita tax in full.

September 27, 1882.

Official visit of District Deputy Grand Master Thomas W. Davis and suite. There were present about sixty members and ninety-eight visitors at this Communication.

October 25, 1882.

Eighty-fifth Annual Communication: Members in good standing, 201.

Brother Charles A. Davis, a member of Meridian Lodge for

nearly twenty-five years, was created a life member by vote of the Lodge. Bro. Henry G. Wood elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.

November 6, 1882.

Past Worshipful Master Malachi Babcock died this morning, aged eighty-one years [see biography of First Master Meridian Lodge, Natick].

November 8, 1882.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Wor. Brother Malachi Babcock.

At 1.30 P. M. Natick Commandery Knights Templar, Parker Chapter Royal Arch Masons, and Meridian Lodge, headed by the Natick Cornet Band, proceeded to the late residence of the deceased on Harvard street, and received his remains and escorted them to the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which deceased had been a member, where the funeral services were conducted by the Rev. C. E. Davis; the Masonic Quartette furnishing the vocal music.

After the Church service, the funeral service of the Knights Templar was performed. The line was again formed, and proceeded to Dell Park Cemetery, where the remains were interred with Masonic honors; Worshipful Master Edward H. Wilson presiding.

November 22, 1882.

Installation of Brother Henry G. Wood as Worshipful Master, and other officers elect for the ensuing year, by Worshipful Charles P. Knowlton of Alpha Lodge. At the close of the ceremonies a Past Master's apron was presented to Worshipful Bro. Knowlton by Rev. Bro. Albert Hammett in behalf of the brethren of Meridian Lodge, as a token of brotherly love and fraternal friendship.

January 10, 1883.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Worshipful Brother Seth Dewing, who was a Master of the Lodge in its early history. His remains were entombed

with Masonic honors at Wellesley; Wor. Past Master S. H. Bent presiding [see Biographies of Past Masters].

January 14, 1883.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Eugene S. Rogers, who departed this life January 11th, after an illness of nearly a year. He was buried with Masonic honors; Wor. Master Henry G. Wood presiding.

January 28, 1883.

Brother William P. Green, an initiate of Meridian Lodge in 1885, died today at Sherborn, Massachusetts.

"Weep not for him: the Thracians wisely gave
Tears to the birth-couch, victory to the grave."

March 21, 1883.

Bro. J. M. Forbush, on behalf of the brethren of the Lodge, presented to Worshipful Past Master Edward H. Wilson, a Past Master's Jewel.

May 1, 1883.

Brother Fuller M. Babcock, an initiate of Meridian Lodge, and son of our late Past Master Malachi Babcock, died today.

May 4, 1883.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending funeral of our late Brother Fuller Malachi Babcock. His remains were deposited in the grave with the solemn rites of Freemasonry; Worshipful Henry G. Wood presiding.

May 16, 1883

The Lodge appropriated \$35.00 for relief of a deceased brother's family.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Bro. T. D. Gard of Worcester for a working-tool presented to the Lodge; to Bro. F. H. Hall for a receptacle for the working-tools of the Lodge; to Bro. Seth Dewing for a portrait, and the diploma of his late father, who in the early history of the Lodge, was its Worshipful Master; and

to Worshipful Henry G. Wood for furnishing frames for the latter.

June 20, 1883.

On motion of Charles C. Henry it was—

Voted, That a Memorial Page be engraved on the Records of the Lodge, in the future, for each deceased brother.

August 3, 1883.

Special Communication to attend funeral of Bro. Joseph E. Sanger, who died August 1st, 1883, aged 56 years 5 months. He was an initiate of Meridian Lodge 1869: Buried with Masonic honors at Pine Hill Cemetery, Sherborn; Worshipful Past Master Edward H. Wilson presiding.

August 15, 1883.

The Wor. Master announced the death of Bro. George Beard, M. D., which occurred on the morning of the 14th instant. Bro. Beard became a member of Meridian Lodge sometime previous to the fire in 1862, when the records of the Lodge were destroyed. He was at one time a very active member of the Lodge; for many years a successful physician in Natick and vicinity; and at the time of his death was sixty-two years of age.

"WE AS FAITHFUL MASONS,
CHERISH THE IMMORTAL HOPE
THAT WE SHALL MEET AGAIN:
MEET TO PART NO MORE!"

September 12, 1883.

Official visitation of Rt. Worshipful J. L. Harriman, M. D., District Deputy Grand Master, and banquet.

The Fourth Masonic District was this year changed to the Twenty-first District. There were present 105 members, and 110 visitors.

October 10, 1883.

Eighty-sixth Annual Communication: Total membership, 209.

A silver water service and table was presented to the Lodge by ninety-three lady friends. The gift was accompanied by the following letter:

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
MERIDIAN LODGE, A. F. AND A. M :

The undersigned, your lady friends, ask your acceptance of the water service and table, as a slight expression of their womanly regard and prideful esteem for Meridian Lodge.

With the gift will you also accept our fervent wishes for your continued advancement and prosperity. God bless Meridian Lodge !

SIGNED BY 93 LADIES.

The Worshipful Master and Wardens were directed to make a suitable response for the acceptable gift.

Worshipful Henry G. Wood elected Wor. Master second term.

October 24, 1883.

Voted, To have the Worshipful Master and officers elect for the ensuing year publicly installed.

November 2, 1883.

Brother Horace N. Stockbridge died today after a long illness. He became a member of the Lodge shortly after its removal to Natick. "Behold what havoc the scythe of Time makes among the human race !"

November 21, 1883.

Public installation of Worshipful Master Henry G. Wood and officers elect for the ensuing year by Worshipful Past Master Charles P. Knowlton of Alpha lodge, South Framingham, assisted by Worshipful William H. Chenry, Past Master of Corinthian Lodge of Concord. At the close of the ceremonies an elegant Past Master's apron was presented to Worshipful Master Wood on behalf of the officers and members of the Lodge.

At the conclusion of the exercises in the hall, the large company of brethren and their ladies and friends repaired to the banquet hall and enjoyed a feast.

April 9, 1884.

Regular Communication : Worked Master Mason's degree ; 181 visitors, and 110 members of Meridian Lodge present ; 61 Lodges from six States and countries represented.

June 11, 1884.

Brother Joshua Gardner, a member of Montgomery Lodge of Milford, Massachusetts, aged 84 years, was introduced to the brethren this evening. Brother Gardner was raised in Bethesda Lodge at Brighton when 24 years of age. He affiliated with Meridian Lodge when located at Newton Lower Falls, and was its Tyler from 1845 to 1848, and severed his membership when the Lodge was moved to Natick in 1852. Worshipful Master Wood introduced him to the Lodge in a few remarks referring to his long connection with the craft, etc. The brethren greeted him with applause, and all cordially took him by the hand and welcomed him among us. Brother Gardner was a signer of the declaration of Freemasons in 1831.

July 9, 1884.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late brother, Hon. Walter N. Mason, who died July 6th, aged 59 years and 8 months. Bro. Mason was an initiate of Meridian Lodge in May, 1865; was a prominent lawyer before the Massachusetts bar, and represented this Senatorial District in the Massachusetts Senate for several terms. He was a self-made man, taking up the study of law while at work at the shoemaker's bench; and with strong perseverance and natural ability, became a noted jurist.

He was today buried with Masonic honors by Meridian Lodge, Worshipful Master Henry G. Wood presiding.

The Lodge was escorted with the remains in charge by the following organizations:

Natick Commandery Knights Templar;
Takawambait Lodge Independent Order Odd Fellows;
Myrtle Lodge Knights of Pythias and Grand Officers;
Natick Council No. 126 Royal Arcanum;
Gen. Wadsworth Post No. 63, Grand Army of Republic;
Company G, First Regiment Mass. Volunteer Militia, and
Parker Royal Arch Chapter;—
—Comprising in all about four hundred men.

The following distinguished gentlemen were present: Ex-Gov-

ernor William Gaston; Hon. George A. Bruce, President Massachusetts Senate; Judge George M. Brooks, and Hon. E. S. Mansfield.

"Gathered into the Land where our fathers have gone before us."

August 6, 1884.

Bro. Joshua Gardner of Montgomery Lodge at Milford, Massachusetts, elected an honorary member of Meridian Lodge.

August 27, 1884.

Presentation of a gold watch and chain to Sen. Deacon Charles C. Henry by the Brethren of the Lodge, as a token of fraternal friendship, and appreciation of Masonic services rendered.

September 3, 1884.

Official visit of Rt. Worshipful James L. Harriman, M. D., District Deputy Grand Master, and suite.

October 1, 1884.

Eighty-seventh Annual Communication: Total membership, 221. Extract from speech of Worshipful Master Wood at this meeting:

Worshipful Master Bent has placed in our Ante-room a picture of Brother Richardson, a Masonic centenarian, handsomely framed, with a condensed history of the subject beautifully engrossed. Brother Bent's well known modesty has prevented him from making a public presentation of his offering.

Soon after the death of Worshipful Seth Dewing I obtained possession of his diploma. I then received information that Bro. Joshua Gardner had in his possession the sword he used when Tyler of this Lodge. At my request he relinquished all his claim to the sword, and I secured also his picture. I procured a small pennant, suitably embossed, which has been displayed in the extreme East, West, and South points of this country. These relics I have had suitably framed, and hung in the Ante-room.

Brother Frederick Lewis elected Worshipful Master for ensuing year.

November 5, 1884.

Voted, To procure a crayon portrait of late Worshipful Past Master Peter Lyon, a Master of Meridian Lodge in its early history.

Voted, To hold a public installation.

November 17, 1884.

The Worshipful Master elect Frederick Lewis, and officers elect for ensuing year, were publicly installed this evening, at a Special Communication, by Worshipful Past Master Henry G. Wood; Also presentation of an elegant Past Master's Jewel to the retiring Master Worshipful Henry G. Wood. Nearly three hundred brethren and ladies partook of the banquet, which followed the most interesting exercises. The music of the evening was furnished by the Knowlton Orchestra of Natick, and the Lotus Glee Club of Boston.

December 31, 1884.

A vote of thanks received from Blue Hill Lodge of Canton, Massachusetts, for care and kindness bestowed upon their late Brother Arthur C. Hayden, who sickened and died in our midst.

February 25, 1885.

Bro. James Downs presented to Meridian Lodge a beautiful water goblet, ornamented with appropriate Masonic designs.

Bro. Thomas F. Hammond died today. He was born in Natick December 28, 1804; raised in Middlesex Lodge, Framingham, 1827. He was an enthusiastic Mason, and a respected townsman.

March 1, 1885.

Special Communication for the purpose of interring the remains of our late Brother Thomas Flinn Hammond with Masonic honors, which was done in due form; Worshipful Brother Frederick Lewis presiding.

March 17, 1885.

Worshipful Master James H. Parker died this morning at 7.30 o'clock, in Milford, Mass. [see Biographies of Past Masters].

March 19, 1885.

Special Communication for the purpose of performing funeral service over the remains of our late Worshipful Brother James H. Parker. The services were held in Masonic Hall. The remains were brought here by a delegation of Milford Commandery K. T., who were received at the Railroad Station by Meridian Lodge, under escort of Natick Commandery K. T., and Parker Royal Arch Chapter; and were conveyed to Masonic Hall, with the widow and relatives of the deceased.

Previous to the Masonic service, an eloquent eulogy was delivered by Wor. Past Master Henry G. Wood; at the conclusion of which, the solemn funeral ceremonies of our order were conducted by Worshipful Master Frederick Lewis. At 2.20 P. M. the remains, followed by the relatives, were escorted to the Railway Station, where a delegation of nineteen brothers, representing the several Masonic organizations of the town, accompanied the remains, with the friends, to Cohasset, Massachusetts, and saw all that was mortal of our late Worshipful brother placed in the tomb. The delegation from Meridian Lodge consisted of Wor. Frederick Lewis, Wor. S. H. Bent, Wor. D. H. L. Gleason, Senior Warden Charles C. Henry, Treasurer Charles H. Whitcomb, J. A. Wood, Jr., and C. W. Burks.

April 29, 1885.

A letter of thanks received from family of our late Wor. Brother James H. Parker, expressing gratitude and appreciation for services etc. rendered during sickness, and at funeral of our late brother.

July 22, 1885.

On motion of Charles C. Henry, the following design, which had been prepared by vote of the Lodge, was adopted as the official heading for its notices, letters, papers, etcætera:



The above device was designed by Brother Secretary John Rockwood.

Voted, To procure a crayon portrait of the late Col. Chester Adams, a Past Master of Meridian Lodge in its early history.

September 23, 1885.

The crayon portrait of late Wor. Chester Adams formally placed in Lodge-room.

The first official visit of Rt. Worshipful Henry G. Wood, District Deputy Grand Master for the Twenty-first Masonic District. Number of members present, 89 ; visitors present 86 ; representing thirty-eight Lodges, and six different States of the Union.

The Secretary records that "he would be remiss in his duty did he fail to note the pleasure and praise expressed by numbers of our visiting brethren in regard to the perfection of our work, and the proficiency of our officers in their several stations ; many declaring it the best exemplification that they had ever witnessed."

October 21, 1885.

The Eighty-eighth Annual Communication : Total membership 234.

Worshipful Frederick Lewis re-elected Worshipful Master for ensuing year.

November 11, 1885.

Special Communication and Installation of Worshipful Frederick Lewis as Master, and other officers elect for the ensuing year, by Worshipful Theodore L. Kelley, Past Master of the Gate of Temple Lodge of South Boston, assisted by Worshipful Brother Charles H. Porter, Master of the same Lodge: Members present, 67; visitors 26. Banquet and speeches followed the ceremonies.

November 9, 1885.

Worshipful Past Master Alvin Fuller, who presided over this Lodge during the Masonic year beginning November 1861, died today at Los Angeles, California [see Past Masters' Biographies].

November 27, 1885.

A District Deputies' Grand Lodge of Instruction was held in Masonic Hall today; Rt. Worshipful Bro. James M. Gleason, Grand Lecturer, presiding. Most Worshipful Grand Master Abraham H. Howland, Jr., honored the occasion with his presence. There were also present 127 brethren, representing the various Lodges in the Twenty-first Masonic District. Meridian Lodge exemplified the first degree on this occasion.

January 20, 1884.

Appropriated a sum of money for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire in Galveston, Texas, which laid waste a large portion of that city.

An elegant Past Master's apron was presented to Worshipful Past Master S. H. Bent this evening by Rt. Worshipful Henry G. Wood on behalf of the brethren who were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason during Worshipful Bro. Bent's term as Master.

Members present, 86; visitors, 102.

February 17, 1886.

A grand concert and ball was held under the auspices of Natick Commandery K. T. this evening in Concert Hall, which was largely attended by the Masonic fraternity in this vicinity.

March 21, 1886.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral

of Brother William Ellis, a member of St. Paul's Lodge, South Boston, and who resided in West Natick, where he died March 19th; and by request of the Worshipful Master of his Lodge he was buried today with Masonic honors; Wor. Frederick Lewis presiding.

May 12, 1886.

A vote of thanks was received this evening from St. Paul's Lodge, expressing appreciation for services rendered to their late Brother William Ellis.

Appropriated \$60.00 for relief of sick brother.

May 28, 1886.

Bro. Sumner H. Parker, an initiate of 1869, died today after a lingering and painful illness. He was born in Natick January 7th, 1848; and at one time was a shoe manufacturer, and a prominent business man of this town. He was buried with Masonic honors by Meridian Lodge on Sunday, May 30th; Worshipful Master Frederick Lewis presiding,—Rev. Bro. J. O. Knowles Acting Chaplain.

June 16, 1886.

Appropriated \$84.00 for relief of a sick brother.

September 8, 1886.

Official visitation of Rt. Worshipful Henry G. Wood, District Deputy Grand Master Twenty-first Masonic District: Members present, 83; visitors who registered, 116, representing 45 Lodges from six States and the District of Columbia.

October 6, 1886.

Eighty-ninth Annual Communication, and election of Brother Charles C. Henry as Worshipful Master: Total membership, 243.

November 10, 1886.

Installation of Bro. Charles C. Henry as Master, and officers elect for the ensuing year by Wor. Past Master Frederick Lewis, assisted by Rt. Worshipful Henry G. Wood and Rev. Wil-

liam W. Hayward. At the conclusion of the ceremony of Installation, Wor. Past Master Silas H. Bent presented to Worshipful Brother Charles C. Henry a Presiding Master's apron on behalf of the brethren of Meridian Lodge.

Right Worshipful Henry G. Wood then took the floor, and in a very neat and appropriate speech presented to retiring Master Frederick Lewis a beautiful Past Master's Jewel. Immediately following this presentation, Bro. E. S. Dodge, M. D., addressed Wor. P. M. Frederick Lewis in a speech expressive of appreciation of the eminent services he had rendered the Lodge as Wor. Master, and presented him, on behalf of the brethren, with a Past Master's apron.

Brothers Nathaniel Smith and John M. Seaward were made honorary members this evening: Members present, 99; visitors, 49.

January 5, 1887.

Lodge voted to light the Masonic apartments with electricity.

February 2, 1887.

Regular Communication, and presentation of a Past Master's apron to Past Master Alexander Hoyt of Alpha Lodge, South Framingham, and an initiate of Meridian Lodge. The presentation was made by Wor. Master Henry on behalf of the brethren of the Lodge, who wished to express in this manner their high appreciation of his rare worth as a man and accomplished Mason.

Members present, 96; visitors, 194; fifty-two of whom were employees of the Boston and Albany Railroad, with which the Worshipful Master was also connected.

March 16, 1887.

Masonic Sociable this evening; about five hundred present. An interesting event of the evening was the presentation of a beautiful marble clock to Meridian Lodge by the ladies of Aurora Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. The presentation speech was made by Past Grand Matron Mrs. S. Ellen Whitcomb, which was responded to by Worshipful Master Charles C. Hen-

ry. The funds for this gift were contributed by ninety ladies of Aurora Chapter.

April 27, 1887.

Brother William A Cutler, an initiate of Meridian Lodge February 21, 1864, died today after a long illness. Bro. Cutler was born October 23, 1834. He enlisted in the United States Army June 29, 1861, in Company H, Thirteenth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, and was mustered out of the service June 1, 1867, serving his country gallantly and faithfully. He was engaged in seventeen battles and twenty skirmishes. He held various commissions, and when mustered out was breveted Colonel for long, faithful, and meritorious service.

September 7, 1887.

Official visit of Rt. Worshipful Henry G. Wood, Dist. Deputy Grand Master. His suite was constituted with the following distinguished Masons: Rt. Worshipful Dr. H. E. Marion, District Deputy G. M. Dist. No. 5; Rt. Worshipful B. F. Horne, Dist. Deputy G. M. Dist. No. 6, Grand Lodge of New Hampshire: Rt. Worshipful H. G. Parker, Grand Tyler Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; Worshipful F. J. Foss, Converse Lodge, Malden; Worshipful G. E. Norris, Converse Lodge, Malden; Worshipful C. H. Marion, Bethesda Lodge, Brighton.

At the conclusion of the exemplification of the Master Mason's degree, Worshipful Master Charles C. Henry addressed Secretary John Rockwood, and on behalf of the brethren of the Lodge, presented him with a magnificent black marble French clock as a token of their appreciation of his valuable services rendered the Lodge in his official capacity as Secretary, and their respect for him as a man and a Mason.

Number of members present, 89; visitors, 111.

October 26, 1887.

Ninetieth Annual Communication, and re-election of Worshipful Charles C. Henry as Wor. Master for the ensuing year: Membership, 254.

Voted, That the installation of the officers elect be public.

November 28, 1887.

Special Communication, and public installation: Nearly four hundred persons present. Charles C. Henry, Wor. Master, and officers elect for the ensuing year were duly installed by Rt. Wor. Bro. Judge Edwin Wright of Boston, assisted by Wor. James K. Odell of Cambridge. The ceremony was performed in a most able and impressive manner. Secretary Rockwood, in his record of it, says: "The installation was one of the most interesting and brilliant efforts ever listened to in this Hall, and held the almost breathless attention of every person present to its last eloquent words. In short it may be said of this ceremony that the pen of your Secretary is unable to do it justice; but that the earnest, fervid, and eloquent words of the speaker must have made a lasting and salutary impression on all who heard them." Two incidents contributed additional interest to the occasion: First, the presentation of an elegant Past Master's Jewel composed of gold and precious stones, accompanied by a beautiful engrossed testimonial bearing the names of the donors was made to Worshipful Charles C. Henry by the hand of Hon. Bro. Charles Q. Tirrell on behalf of the brethren of the Lodge. Also the presentation of an embroidered Past Master's apron by the hand of Wor. James M. Woods, Past Master of Montgomery Lodge, in behalf of the Masonic employees of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company, upon which Wor. Bro. Henry was employed. This also was accompanied by an engrossed testimonial bearing the names of the donors, and of the Lodges to which they belong.

A sumptuous banquet followed the exercises.

November 30, 1887.

Regular Communication: A vote of thanks was tendered to Rt. Worshipful Bro. Judge Edwin Wright and suite, in appreciation of the able and impressive manner in which the recent ceremonies of installation were performed; the brethren rising, the more fully to emphasize their approval.

January 25, 1888.

Voted, That the Worshipful Master be empowered to procure a portrait of our late Worshipful Past Master Malachi Babcock, to be hung upon the wall of the Lodge-room, and to be similar to

those of Wor. Peter Lyon and Wor. Chester Adams, which already adorn our walls. Also—

Voted, That the three first officers of the Lodge be constituted a committee to procure a fire-proof safe as a repository for the safe keeping of our Charter, Records etc.

February 22, 1888.

Regular Communication, and recognition of Washington's Birthday. The Worshipful Master as committee on crayon portrait of our late Worshipful Bro. Babcock, reported that he had procured the same, and had hung it in the East of the Lodge. In his report the Worshipful Master included quite a lengthy resume of the life, character, and Masonic record of our late lamented brother. The portrait is a striking likeness of him.

The work of the third degree was conferred upon two brethren: and between the first and second sections of the degree the Worshipful Master stated that he was in possession of an interesting correspondence between Gen. George Washington and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; and as this meeting occurred on the birthday of the "Father of his Country," he deemed it not inappropriate to read it, which he proceeded to do, as showing the position that Washington occupied in relation to our ancient institution in the later years of his life.

Deeming the correspondence of general interest to the Craft, we give it in full below:

ADDRESS

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TO THE HONORED AND ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHER GEORGE WASHINGTON.

SIR: Whilst the historian is describing the career of your glory, and the inhabitants of an extensive empire are made happy in your unexampled exertions; whilst some celebrate the hero so distinguished in liberating United America, and others the patriot who presides over her councils; a band of brothers having always joined the acclamations of their countrymen, now testify their re-

spect for those milder virtues which have ever graced the man.

Taught by the precepts of our society that all its members stand upon a level we venture to assume this station, and to approach with that freedom which diminishes our diffidence without lessening our respect. Desirous to enlarge the boundaries of social happiness, and to vindicate the ceremonies of their institution, the Grand Lodge have published a Book of Constitutions, and a copy for your acceptance accompanies this, which by discovering the principles that actuate, will speak the eulogy of the society; though they fervently wish the conduct of its members may prove its higher recommendation.

Convinced of his attachment to its cause, and his readiness to encourage its benevolent designs, they have taken the liberty to dedicate this work to one, the qualities of whose heart, and the actions of whose life, have contributed to improve personal virtue, and extend throughout the world the most endearing cordialities; and they humbly hope he will pardon this freedom, and accept the tribute of their esteem and homage.

May the Supreme Architect of the Universe protect and bless you; give length of days, and increase of felicity in this world, and then receive you to the harmonious and exalted society in Heaven!

JOHN CUTLER, Grand Master.

JOSHUA BARTLETT, }
MUNGO MACKAY, } Grand Wardens.

BOSTON, December 27, A. D. 1792.

RESPONSE

OF GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

GENTLEMEN: Flattering as it may be to the human mind, and truly honorable as it is to receive from our fellow-citizens testimonials of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a society *whose liberal principles are founded in the immutable Laws of Truth and Justice. To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy the benevolent design of the Masonic institution*; and it is most fervently to be wished that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

While I beg your acceptance of my thanks for the "Book of Constitutions" which you have sent me, and for the honor you have done me in the dedication, permit me to assure you that I feel all those emotions of gratitude which your affectionate and cordial wishes are calculated to inspire; and I sincerely pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may bless you here, and receive you hereafter in his Immortal Temple.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

December, 1792.

The Philidian Glee Club of Boston furnished the vocal music of the evening; and in honor of the day the entrance to the apartments was decorated with the national colors, gracefully disposed about the picture of George Washington officiating as Master; while in the East a large steel engraving of the same subject was tastefully draped by two large flags with excellent effect. A banquet followed the exercises. There were over one hundred members and two hundred visitors present, who participated in the enjoyments of this very interesting occasion.

March 13, 1888.

Bro. Nathaniel Smith, an initiate of Meridian Lodge soon after its location in Natick in 1852, died this morning. He served as Junior Warden of the Lodge in the year beginning November, 1862. He was born in Athol, Massachusetts, January 1st, 1812, and came to Natick in 1843, where for forty-five years he has resided. He was a carpenter and builder of considerable repute; was a rare example of uprightness of life and unswerving honesty, and commanded the respect of all who knew him.

March 28, 1888.

Special Communication convened to see what action the Lodge would take in reference to celebrating Saint John's Day, June 25th, 1888. The Lodge voted nearly unanimously to hold the celebration, and the Worshipful Master appointed the following brethren as an Executive Committee to arrange plans and details for the event, James H. Gilligan, Worshipful D. H. L. Gleason, Worshipful Frederick Lewis, A. H. Bryant, Charles H. Whitcomb, James Downs, and John Rockwood; but the last named

subsequently resigned. Worshipful S. H. Bent, and Brother F. B. Twitchell were added to the Committee, and the Worshipful Master Charles C. Henry was chosen Chairman.

March 31, 1888.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Samuel Olney Daniels, who died very suddenly and unexpectedly at his residence Wednesday morning, March 28th. His remains were entombed with Masonic honors at Dell Park Cemetery; Worshipful Master Charles C. Henry presiding, assisted by our Chaplain, Rev. C. H. Walters. Escort duty was performed to Meridian Lodge by Parker Royal Arch Chapter and Natick Commandery Knights Templar, preceded by the Natick Cadet Band.

Our beloved brother is entitled to more than a passing notice, as he was one of our most ardent and zealous Masons. He was born in Framingham, Massachusetts, November 9th, 1844; received the sublime degree of Master Mason in Meridian Lodge March 24th, 1869; exalted in Parker Royal Arch Chapter April 27th, 1869; and created a Knight Templar in Milford Commandery, and was a Charter member of Natick Commandery. He was installed Em. Com. of the latter Commandery in 1880 and 1881. For years he was the leading druggist of the town, and at the time of his death was sole proprietor of one of the finest retail drug stores in the State. He was an enterprising citizen; and it was largely through his efforts that the Electric Light Plant was introduced into the towns of Natick, Framingham and Ashland. He was suddenly stricken down in the midst of a busy life, lamented by the whole community; and his loss mourned by an unusually large circle of personal friends in whose hearts his memory will be cherished for many years.

June 15, 1888.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Royal Tyler Brooks, and to pay the last tribute of respect to his memory. The remains were taken in charge by Meridian Lodge at his late residence on Summer street, and proceeded with them to Dell Park Cemetery under escort

of Parker Royal Arch Chapter and Natick Commandery K. T., headed by the Natick Cadet Band, marching to the solemn music of dirges. Arriving at the cemetery, the remains were tenderly entombed by fraternal hands with public Masonic honors, which we as Masons bestow upon the faithful dead of our Craft,—Worshipful Charles C. Henry presiding; assisted by our Chaplain, Rev. C. H. Walters.

Royal Tyler Brooks was born in Rutland, Massachusetts, in 1837; raised in Meridian Lodge November, 10th 1875; exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Parker Royal Arch Chapter February 5th, 1878; and completed his orders of Knighthood in Natick Commandery June 5th, 1882. He died June 13th, 1888, after a long and painful illness. For many years he carried on a successful livery business in the town of Natick. He was of a bright and genial disposition, and his death was lamented by all who knew him: As one said of him, "He was kind, generous, and square!" and in his demise we lost a just and upright Mason from our ranks.

June 20, 1888.

Regular Communication: A circular from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, giving the details of proposed ceremonies in memory of Henry Price, the first Provincial Grand Master of Massachusetts, consisting of the dedication of a monument at Townsend, Massachusetts, 21st instant, and an historical address, a dinner, and a procession in Boston, the 26th instant, was read.

The following Dispensation was also received from the Most Worshipful Grand Master:

GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS:

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER, }
BOSTON, June 16, 1888. }

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF MERIDIAN LODGE:

A Dispensation is hereby granted authorizing you to form a public procession of the members of said Lodge, and of other

Lodges and visiting brethren, for the purpose of celebrating the Festival of Saint John the Baptist, on the 25th instant.

Signed: HENRY ENDICOTT,
Grand Master.

June 25, 1888.

Special Communication and Celebration of Saint John's Day: The journal of the proceedings of this day covers about forty-five pages of our Records. The event was a notable one in the history of the Lodge, and we assume that a full account of the occasion will be read with interest by future generations; and therefore reproduce it as given by the NATICK CITIZEN, in its issue of June 28, 1888:

SAINT JOHN'S DAY—GRAND MASONIC CELEBRATION.

GOVERNOR AMES, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR BRACKETT, AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED MASONS PRESENT—PARADE—ORATION—BANQUET—AFTER-DINNER SPEECHES—EVENING RECEPTION.

Months ago was conceived the idea that there should be held in Natick a Grand Masonic Festival. The suggestion growing in favor was soon adopted, and the Nativity of Saint John was selected as the event to be celebrated.

Saint John's Day, June 24th, is the commemoration of the birth of Saint John the Baptist. He is esteemed as the patron of architects, and is held in special honor by Freemasons.

For forty years past this day has not been celebrated by the Blue Lodges; but principally by the Knights Templar. This celebration was inaugurated by Meridian Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

The work of preparation was at once commenced by the selection and appointment of committees upon all of the many departments. This important duty, requiring the utmost carefulness and discrimination, was discharged with scrupulous observance of the principle, "the right man in the right place." With Worshipful Charles C. Henry as chairman of the Executive Commit-

tee, ably supported by all his colleagues, the success which marked all the proceedings on Monday was assured from the first.

The decorations were in charge of H. H. Whitney, C. W. Ford, and G. W. Best: Committee assisted by ladies of Aurora Chapter O. E. S., under the supervision of Mrs. S. Ellen Whitcomb, Past Grand Matron of that order in Massachusetts.

Besides Masonic Hall, the proceedings of the day involved the use of other places; and Grand Army Hall, Concert Hall, and the Congregational Church were secured. In Masonic Hall the steps leading to the Master's chair were nearly filled with large potted ferns, callas, hydrangeas in bloom; also fuchias, heliotrope, astilbe, etcætera. A like but smaller collection adorned the West and the South. Two of the Eastern windows were shaded with groups of large plants. Smaller plants of both blooming and ornamental foliage character formed banks of beauty in front of the desks of the Treasurer and the Secretary. Bouquets of roses were placed on the desks, the organ, and upon tables in the smaller rooms.

“WELCOME!” framed in a garland of white flowers and green, shone out above the Oriental chair.

At the Congregational Church a large group of specimen plants formed a screen in front of the platform, and the pulpit was mostly hidden by masses of green, with a large emblem (square and compass) in the centre. A line of wreaths and garlands adorned the front of the choir, and fine bouquets completed a very tasteful and beautiful floral display.

The decorations in Concert Hall were furnished by George Nelson Beal of Boston, son of that famous decorator, Colonel Beal of that city. They were arranged under the direction of Mrs. Beal, wife of the contractor. Long pennants extended from the ceiling of the central chandelier to the cornices of the sides and the south end of the hall; also to the proscenium arch. A deep band of red bunting depended from the cornices, covering the front of the gallery. Masonic banners in great variety were hung upon the walls, the gallery front, and the proscenium. A

large banner of maroon cloth over the gallery bore in gold letters and figures, "Meridian Lodge A. F. and A. M., Chartered 1797." At the rear of the platform another banner of same size and color blazed forth, "Welcome to our Saint John's Day Celebration!" A large emblem (square and compass enclosing the letter G) in white upon a blue ground was upon the front of the platform.

We noticed upon the line of march an elaborate display of flags and bunting upon the residence of Worshipful Past Master Daniel H. L. Gleason; also a rich and beautiful decoration of Masonic emblems, hanging drapery and plants at the home of Eminent Past Commander Charles H. Child. Most of the stores were closed during part of the day, also many of the shops; and the result was crowded streets.

Masonic Hall was thrown open at an early hour to all Free and Accepted Masons. Grand Army Hall was made the rendezvous of Natick Commandery of Knights Templar, and all visiting brethren of that degree.

At 11.20 o'clock a Special Communication of Meridian Lodge was opened under the dispensation of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge for the purpose of celebrating Saint John's Day. Lunch was served at noon in the banquet-hall and in the ante-rooms of G. A. R. Hall. The procession was formed soon after one o'clock.

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Chief Marshal, D. H. L. Gleason.

Aids.

R. B. Wight, H. F. Felch, G. W. Best, F. W. Shattuck, W. L. Doane, J. H. Daley, Knights Templar—Mounted.

American Band of Waltham, Massachusetts.

Natick Commandery Knights Templar—Mounted and on Foot.

Sir Alfred H. Bryant, Eminent Commander.

Parker Royal Arch Chapter.

James Downs, Most Excellent High Priest.

Invited Guests—in Carriages.

His Excellency Oliver Ames, Governor of Massachusetts.

His Honor John Q. A. Brackett, Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts.

Representatives of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Massachusetts.

Rt. Worshipful Bro. Judge Edwin Wright of Boston—Orator of the Day,
Rt. Eminent Alfred F. Chapman—Editor "Liberal Free Mason," and Past
General Grand High Priest of the United States of America.

J. Wesley Kimball—Mayor of Newton.

Infirm Masons.

Natick Cadet Band.

Meridian Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Charles C. Henry—Worshipful Master.

This procession was a brilliant affair. Nearly three hundred Masons were in line, and marched via Main, Pond, Forest, and West Central streets to the Congregational Church.

EXERCISES AT THE CHURCH.

Singing by Congregation—"Old Hundred."

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye Heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Introductory Prayer—Rev. Brother C. H. Walters.

Singing: "Lead, Kindly Light!"—Temple Quartet.

Reading Scripture Selection, 12th Ch. Romans—Rev. Bro. C. H. Walters.

Singing by Quartet.

Prayer—Rev. Bro. William W. Hayward.

Response by Quartet.

Oration—Right Worshipful Brother Judge Edwin Wright.

Singing by Quartet.

Concluding Prayer—Rev. Bro. C. H. Walters.

Singing by the Congregation of original ode composed for the occasion by
Mrs. S. Ellen Whitcomb:

ODE.

The earth lay cold and lifeless

'Neath pall of blackest night,

Till came the mighty mandate

From God: "Let there be Light!"

Quick fled the awful darkness;
 Order from chaos sprang:
 Nature with countless voices
 Her natal anthem sang.

So into darksome places
 Of Misery, Want, and Woe,
Masonic Strength, in silence,
With Wisdom, Beauty goes.
 Scattered are Want's black shadows,
 And forth from Sorrow's night
 The stricken heart is guided,—
 Led into Life and Light.

Thrice blessed be this Order,
 Which bears upon its roll
 The name of patriot, statesman,—
 Of saint, and martyred soul,—
 Which holds as sacred, binding
 Laws human and divine,—
 Which joins to mighty power
 A purpose grand, sublime.

Jehovah, Mighty Master,
 Who through long ages past
 Hast led this grand old Order,
 Be with it till the last!
 When sounds the "call from labor,"—
 When *rest* to each has come—
 Bestow Thy benediction,—
 A holy welcome home!

Benediction—Rev. Brother William W. Hayward.

THE ORATION.

The theme of the orator was "Freemasonry," which was discussed in several ways. "Whence, what, why, or wherefore," were the leading questions, and the replies were rendered in an

interesting and instructive manner. There are many theories as to the origin of Masonry. Some writers date its beginning, if not in Eden, in the immediately succeeding ages. Others, less ardent in claiming its antiquity, fix upon dates nearer the time of Solomon. But whether we believe it to have been founded earlier or later than the building of Solomon's Temple, the essential principles of the Order are the same; although the forms and ceremonies may have been originally very different from those of modern times. It is probable that it became an established order when the building of stone edifices had attained an artistic character. It was the leading profession: using all science and all art, involving the highest development of the human mind, only the cultivated were admitted.

Recognizing the law that self-indulgence is debasing in its effects upon the mind, and that self-control is the foundation of improvement, it required its members to obey the moral law, and that they should be good men. They were only men, however; and when the highest development in religious belief was subjection to priestly rule, it supported that system; but later it limited conformity to the church of one's own country. Now it teaches only those tenets of religion and politics which all accept; but it has ever been at the front in the progress of the development of our race. It is not specialistic in character; but is the broadest of all institutions, and draws together men of every race in every land, making them brethren in the highest sense. Its recognized usefulness has led to the establishment of all forms of association which tend to promote the prosperity and happiness of the human family. Masonry aims not specially to advance religion, science, economics, etcætera; but rather to cultivate the social amenities of life, to elevate the aims of its members, to develop their sympathies; teaches courage, loyalty, and corrects the low aims of undeveloped minds, the schemes of selfishness. Masonry is at hand when fortune fails, when reputation is aspersed, when the oppression of misguided power would strike down a brother. Masonry should encourage the depressed, work to shut up "the cunning foxes," rise above the mean rule of expediency. In Masonry, by its restraints and compensations, we learn how to do the best work, to be quick to cheer, strong to support,

prompt to correct error—to right the wrong. The orator paid a glowing tribute to the memory of Malachi Babcock, the first Master of Meridian Lodge after its removal to Natick, extolling his personal and Masonic character as an example to stimulate the brethren to greater effort to cultivate and illustrate the Masonic virtues.

At the close of the exercises in the Church, the procession reformed and proceeded over the remaining portion of the route: Main, North Main, Willow, Winnemay, Grove, Walnut, Main, to Concert Hall.

THE BANQUET.

The table extended along the entire front of the stage, at which presided Worshipful Master Charles C. Henry,—Governor Ames at his right, Judge Wright at his left; and the other guests filled out the line. Members of the Committee were at tables at the upper part of the stage. The hall floor was filled with tables extending to the gallery columns. The banquet was furnished by Bro. William Tufts of Boston, and was a sumptuous and satisfactory repast in all respects.

Rev. Bro. Hayward invoked the Divine blessing; and after the viands had been fully discussed, the feast of good things said and sung began. Worshipful Master Henry was toastmaster. The American Band, Waltham, rendered a selection as a prelude, after which the first toast was given:

The Day we Celebrate: Commemorative of the Voice in the Wilderness which proclaimed Him who taught us to forgive our enemies, and to love one another.

Response by Hon. Charles Q. Tirrell:

WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

To many the commemoration of this day by the various departments of Freemasonry may seem almost a sacrilegious act; not to those indeed who are members of the Order; but to the superficial observers of existing institutions; the bigoted fanatic, or the prejudiced successors of a bygone and more ignorant age. By

them the atheistic declarations of French Masonic bodies years ago—characteristic then not only of Masonry in France, but of French institutions and society—are taken as typical of the Order; hence, within the memory of many Masons today, the Order was for a time overshadowed by calumny, misrepresentation, and hostility. It was said no good could come of it, as it was said of old, no good could come from the Nazarinæ. A few years since the Earl of Carnarvon, Acting Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of English Freemasons, referred to this matter. He fearlessly denied that there had been anything, directly or indirectly, by word or deed, that could sully the fair fame in this respect either of that Grand Lodge, or any Lodge under its rule. He pointed to their rules, to their ancient charges, to their book of constitutions, all breathing a spirit of religion and obedience to law, in refutation of the slander. He alluded to the participation of the order about that time in laying the cornerstone of a tower of Peterborough Cathedral; how members of this Order—men of every class and every profession to whom religion and social order might be deemed the dearest object of their hearts—were gathered together for the restoration of a temple for the worship and honor of Almighty God. He said the law-practices and traditions of the Order utterly disprove the charge.

What he then asserted, Freemasons in America could always assert in the most emphatic terms. We declare its members to be a God-fearing and ever a law-abiding class; that they are free from bigotry, sectarianism, and prejudice; that they recognize the fundamental principles of Christianity professed by Christians of every land and creed; that the particular form of belief for our purposes is immaterial if its essence is professed and followed; that as King Solomon's Temple was erected by command of Deity, where the scattered tribes of Israel could gather to worship God; to lay upon the altar the sacrificial offerings; listen to the voice of the prophets; bow in penitence and contrition; and rise at the call of priest and votary to battle for the Lord: so we can gather in imitation of their example within the temples made by mortal hands, typical of the Immortal Temple of old, to carry out as best we may the lessons that creation suggested, and the newer and more precious lessons, that when that Temple had

mouldered into dust in the New Dispensation, the Son of David was to promulgate to the world.

But why, it may be asked, should the anniversary of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist be celebrated by us? What relation has Masonry to this event? Admitting that our ceremonies may refer to him, in connection with other scripture incidents, why select him upon this occasion in preference to other saint and martyrs whose blood has been the seed of the church?

For a moment let us examine this question and see wherein its appropriateness may lie. Saint John the Baptist bursts like an apparition from the skies upon the astonished multitude. He appears in the wilderness of Judea clothed in the coarsest of raiment, and subsisting upon the poorest food. He however illustrates certain cardinal truths which we as Free and Accepted Masons are called upon to imitate. He was from the humblest walks of life; so every one of us, learned or ignorant, rich or poor, must be no respecter of persons, except so far as the principles they represent may be in accordance with Divine precepts. He was bold and courageous; fearing neither the Sanhedrim, the Roman Governor, the enraged Pharisee, nor the Priests of the Temple: so we are to boldly to affirm every exalted principle of our Order in equal confidence of its sacred character. He sought not his own aggrandizement, but said to the people, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight."

So we in our work, with reverential minds and receptive hearts, are taught in the beautiful imagery of Masonic instructions to prepare ourselves for the reception of some of those truths which are the basis of Christianity, and which Saint John announced one would proclaim "whose shoe's latchet he was not worthy to unloose." First among them is Charity, without which all else is "as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal:" the charity which "suffereth long and is kind; is not easily provoked; thinketh no evil;" which looks beyond the selfishness of man to the good in man, and seeks to develop whatever is noble, pure, and right; which is ready to sacrifice individual interests for the common good; which eradicates the evils incident to human nature so far as kindness, exhortation and aid can do; which says man is not perfect: there are influences dragging him downward; and yet

other influences leading him upward; and we will, if possible, dissipate the one, and surround him with the other.

Then there is that kindred virtue, the shining light of the New Dispensation, unknown among the nations of old, where Christianity has not penetrated, nor Masonry obtained a foothold, Love: love which cherishes man as a brother, with a common Father, even God Himself; love which forgives our enemies and blesses them that curse us; love which seeks the amelioration of the race: love which subordinates ourselves that others may receive equal happiness and privileges; love that would make our common brotherhood bathed in the heavenly light that fell upon the Judean hills when John the Baptist had fulfilled his mission.

Kindred with this sentiment comes Fraternity,—the practical exemplification of the truths referred to in the offices of reciprocal relief, so well displayed in the history of this Order. Well does scripture teach us: impressively did Saint John proclaim that old dogmas, narrow views, class distinctions, costly demonstration, party domination, favored sects, civil power, greed, ambition, and might, should no longer be the aim of those truly numbered among the sons of the ever-living God: but he only who should hear the voice in the wilderness, and follow in the footsteps of the Gallilean.

The Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man!—this is the greeting Masonry sends to the world today. He has not imbibed the rudiments of Masonry who cannot say when social storms are raging, angry bickerings dividing, and selfish ambition and jealousy destroying the unity and prosperity of society or the State, “Peace!—be still!” Masonry seeks to prepare the man for the battle of life: so John the Baptist prepared the multitude for the coming of our Lord. Masonry says, Cast from you whatever is mean, or low, or grovelling in your nature, and be men:

—High-minded men,
 With powers as far above dull brutes endued,
 In forest, brake, or den, as beasts excel
 Cold rocks, or barrens rude;
 Men who their duties know, but know
 Their rights, and knowing dare maintain.

—So Saint John said to the scheming, corrupt*throngs about

him, "Repent! turn from your evil ways, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Masonry inculcates humility that is the sinking of self for the good of other. It teaches Fraternity: that is, the linking together of man with man, where each obligates himself to the other for the common good. It proclaims obedience to law; that is, the submission of the will, controlled by the recognized truths of a common Christianity, not only to the civil but to the higher power. It interferes neither with political nor sectarian subjects, believing that each should follow the dictates of his conscience; but if permeated with the truths inculcated by this Order, he cannot go far astray. It interweaves with its ritual and charges allusions to and precepts from the saints and worthies of old; for what prouder claim can mortals make than say, "We follow in their train."

Long may Saint John's Day be remembered by our fraternity! Our patron saint we commemorate today. O, may he inspire us as Masons to a nobler life, and grant us a happy deliverance when the end cometh!

Song by the Temple Quartet of Boston.

Massachusetts: Our grand old Commonwealth, to which we, as faithful Masons, render our cheerful allegiance.

Responded to by His Excellency and our Brother, Oliver Ames, Governor:

When the Governor arose he was greeted with cheer upon cheer, and much applause; and "Hail to the Chief" was given by the band. The Governor expressed his pleasure at the cordial reception extended to him by the brethren, and returned his thanks. He was glad to receive the invitation to be present, and decided then to come here today. He also thanked the Worshipful Master for notifying him several days in advance that he would be expected to respond to this toast, and he therefore knew just what he was going to say. He had it right in his hand. He would say to the brethren further, if they would not give him away before election, that it is harder to be a good Master of a

Lodge than to be Governor of Massachusetts. He always admired a good Master of a Lodge. He was not himself able to be such ; and he doubted if Brother Brackett was either. Alluding to his usual avoidance of public speaking, he said that when he entered upon his official duties he made an agreement with the Lieutenant-Governor by which he was to attend to the business of the office, and Mr. Brackett was to attend to the oratory. He then read the following response to the toast :

WORSHIPFUL MASTER AND BROTHERS :

The toast to which I am to respond expresses in brief but emphatic language what I know to be the attitude of the Masonic Fraternity to the Commonwealth. To the State and to all that pertains to its welfare and safety they render cheerful allegiance ; and in them Massachusetts sees some of her most faithful sons. I do not need to say anything to you about the glories and advantages of Masonry to the individual : we know what they are. I am happy to say that in Masonry the State finds one of those conservative powers which add to its stability. The Mason who lives up to his profession is a good citizen ; and there cannot be too many men of that kind.

The State has ever done all that she could to promote that feeling of fraternity which underlies Masonry, and we see today some of the results of her policy. Within her borders are tens of thousands of men, and thousands of women, who find aid and encouragement in societies that with doors closed to the outside world do their formal work, but that far and wide scatter with liberality their benefactions. I see no reason why the encouragement now given to these societies should not be continued and increased, if need be. We know that only that which stands the test of time and use is of any worth, and can endure. We also know that mutual assistance in some form is as old as society. The claim of antiquity made by us as Masons for our Order is no vain boast. It matters not that forms may have changed ; the underlying principle is the same. Upon it society in general, when rightly constructed, is based ; and we can do no better work

for ourselves or for our fellows than to promote its extension, both by precept and example to the full extent of our powers.

Response by the Band.

Our State Officers who honor this occasion by their presence: We gladly welcome, and always delight to honor them.

Responded to by His Honor, John Q. A. Brackett, Lieutenant-Governor:

He claimed that if the State officers honored this gathering by coming here, they were honored by being invited to come; and on that issue he held that "honors were easy." When the Governor is present the Lieutenant-Governor is generally kept in the background; but in the absence of the chief, the lieutenant is brought into greater prominence. Alluding to the agreement mentioned by the Governor, he said that the latter had been obliged to practice public speaking to some extent, and was therefore "broken in;" consequently, as his own salary was less than that of his chief, he felt that he might be excused from that agreement. His coming to Natick began when the funeral of Vice President Wilson occurred. He did not know whether Henry Wilson was a Mason, until today he was told that he was not; but he lived the principles of Masonry with such unswerving fidelity, he was a worthy brother, only without the forms.

He spoke of the many forms of associated interests in societies of a beneficiary character as outgrowths of Freemasonry, and as illustrative of the love of man for man, which is a conspicuous feature of the spirit of the nineteenth century. He had enjoyed the exercises of this celebration, which he held to be creditable to this order and to the town. He closed with a reference to the oration of Right Worshipful Brother Wright, and complimented and thanked him for rendering more light to the Craft.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts: A city set upon a hill that cannot be hid.

Response by Most Worshipful Henry Endicott, Grand Master. [As the Grand Master was unable to attend in person, he sent his response in manuscript, which was read by Worshipful Master Henry]:

CHARLES C. HENRY, ESQ., WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF MERIDIAN LODGE :

DEAR SIR AND WORSHIPFUL BROTHER : Unable to be present with you today, it is yet a pleasure to send you fraternal greetings and to wish you most complete success for your celebration. You have asked me to respond to the toast, "The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts." To do that adequately would require one better able than I to interpret the full significance of an institution which has succeeded through many years in uniting for noble purposes men differing from each other in thoughts and manners. Such an institution must stand for the best things in life. How rightfully then does it claim our loyalty ! With a history reaching back more than a hundred and fifty years, organized as a Province of the Grand Lodge of England, it has watched the changes from colonial dependence to full national life. It has shared in the struggles that heralded the birth of the republic. It has held its own through the distrust and opposition of the early decades of this century, and no less has it succeeded in preserving its dignity and character through the prosperous days of the present.

From its circle have gone out many who did it honor by carrying its principles into other States, and other countries. Among its members have been enrolled men known far beyond their own homes, and their own times, for noble lives. It stands like a protecting mother, ever watchful for the interests of her children. May it continue in imperial strength through the generations of the future, living to encourage those things of life that endure,—Justice, Brotherhood, and Aspiration.

Fraternally yours,

June 22, 1888.

HENRY ENDICOTT.

Song by the Temple Quartet.

The memory of Washington: The Grand Master who laid the cornerstone of the Temple of Liberty.

Response by Brother E. S. Dodge, M. D.

Preliminary to his response proper, Dr. Dodge, who is Chair-

man of the Board of Selectmen of Natick, tendered to the Governor and other distinguished visitors a hearty welcome to our town. He assured the Governor that the people of this town regarded him with great respect; that they had much confidence in his patriotism, and his purpose to conduct the affairs of the State in the best manner possible. He thanked him for coming here today; and believed he would take to his home a memory of Natick which would find a warm place in his heart. Then, saying he would emulate the example of the Governor, he read his response to the sentiment as follows:

In responding to the noble sentiment which has been proposed I feel it incumbent on me to direct the attention of the friends and brethren here assembled to the high and enduring attributes of an illustrious character, known and venerated throughout the whole world. I cannot reasonably expect to bring before you anything new or novel; but rather to direct your thoughts to a character so sublime, true, and yet human, as to remind you of the possibilities of life, and create anew the spirit of emulation. Tracing the record of a wonderfully successful career—almost a life of perfection—gives us hope, and yields to our vision some of the possibilities which lie around and about us. In whatever light he be viewed, George Washington was a great man. As a soldier he was courageous, cautious, persistent, and honorable. He battled for justice, freedom, and equality, and he was victorious. History regards him as one of the great captains of the world. As a patriot he was sincere, unwavering, and uncompromising. His accomplishments before, during, and after the Revolution were truly marvellous. Nothing in the history of the world reveals a character so broad and sublime, and from which such important results have ensued. As a statesman he evinced a great knowledge of human nature and human purposes, which is so important and necessary to fit a man to take a prominent and leading part in the affairs of state. His efforts were not confined to his own country, but take a far wider range; and we find that he successfully coped with the wisest statesmen of Europe, and in such a manner that our own country feels it today.

As a private citizen he demonstrated the fact that it is a very great honor and responsibility to be a citizen. Today we are citizens, but were it not for the great achievements of Washington we might today be known as subjects. Let us be mindful of our obligations, and of the dignity which attaches itself to the name of citizen. Upon these important considerations depends in a great measure the honor and glory of the Commonwealth. As a Master Mason Washington shed great lustre upon the Fraternity at large. Accounts differ regarding the number and nature of the official positions which he held in Freemasonry; but I believe there exists not the shade of a doubt but that he was Master of a Lodge for a considerable number of years, and that at all times he manifested a profound love for the institution. On September 18th, 1793, he laid the cornerstone of the magnificent Capitol at Washington City. And so I might pass on and give innumerable proofs of his great regard for the Craft, if such a course were deemed necessary.

In the early days of Masonry in this country when error, prejudice, and persecution existed in a marked degree, the weight of his great name gave that much-needed strength and popularity to the Order which was so essential to its growth and prosperity. His name, therefore, accomplished more for Masonry than could have been obtained had he occupied the highest possible official station.

And now, friends and brethren, I sincerely trust that the few rambling thoughts which I have indulged in may lead us all to seriously reflect upon the precepts and example of Washington. We can show our appreciation of his life and eminent public services in no better way than to strive to imitate his example; and as he laid the cornerstone for the Temple of Liberty, so may we strengthen, guard, and protect it, and transmit it,—magnificent Temple that it is,—a rich heritage to our children.

To the Orator of the Day: Whose profound thoughts have been expressed with such rare eloquence, and to whom we have listened with delight today.

Response by Right Worshipful Brother Judge Edwin Wright:

Bro. Wright declared it was with ill grace that he could occupy the time longer ; but he mentioned some incidents which occurred when he was present in Meridian Lodge, and the proceedings of the officers and brethren in those cases excited his admiration. In some respects he regarded Meridian Lodge as without a peer in the United States. He likened this Lodge to a family in which the mother cultivates the family virtues. Masonry is not a public society seeking to display itself before the world ; but it cultivates in the brethren those graces and virtues which tend to qualify them to meet public demands when they may arise. Its work especially developes the attribute of love, that strongest bond of sympathy and union, which unites, ennobles, and perpetuates our race.

Editor of the **LIBERAL FREEMASON** : Our old-time friend and brother.

Response by Right Excellent Companion Alfred F. Chapman, Past General Grand High Priest of the United States of America :

Brother Chapman remarked of the titles attached to his name that it seemed a pretty big place to fill ; but if he could not fill it he would rattle around in it awhile. He spoke of Meridian Lodge in pleasant terms ; of its long existence ; of its good fortune in the services rendered to it by Worshipful Brother Malachi Babcock, whose noble record was given in the **LIBERAL FREEMASON**. He also expressed his indebtedness to Worshipful Bro. Henry for valuable contributions to that magazine. Some facts about the General Grand Chapter of the United States were given, and some pleasant incidents were related. He rejoiced with Meridian Lodge upon this day's celebration, and gave some amusing reminiscences of celebrations by Lodges in the early days of the 19th century.

Meridian Lodge, Chartered by Paul Revere December, 1797 : May her sun of glory never set.

Response by Worshipful D. H. L. Gleason :

WORSHIPFUL MASTER AND BRETHREN :

The sentiment to which I am called to respond opens up a wide field, covering as it does the past ninety-one years ; and were I so disposed, what a mass of statistics I could force upon you. In place of that I will briefly review the history of Meridian Lodge, trusting it will meet with your approval.

From the date of granting her charter in 1797 to the present time, her record has been out of the ordinary channels. It was the last official act of that grand patriot and citizen as well as Grand Master, Paul Revere. The meeting was in the evening, in Concert Hall, a building used by the Grand Lodge, standing at the corner of Hanover and Court streets, Boston. The Charter was granted on the application of Brother Hull and others ; but I am sorry to say their names or number are not on record.

The institution of the Lodge was in Watertown, under the direction of Most Worshipful Grand Master Josiah Bartlett ; and we find in a newspaper of that time the following graphic description of that interesting ceremony. It is headed " Masonic Installation [should read 'Constitution'] at Watertown ;" and properly begins with poetry as follows :

Behold the acorn from a tender root,-
Puts forth a weak and unregarded shoot ;
But Nature's faithful process once begun,
It gains new strength with each revolving sun ;
Till its firm stem the raging storm defies,
And its bold branches wave amidst the skies !

Then follows a most interesting description of the services and festivities :

On Wednesday Meridian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. was installed in ample form at Watertown. The Rev. Mr. Eliot introduced the solemnities with prayer. Vocal and instrumental music followed (the former being original compositions of Mr.

Samuel Babcock). The Rev. Mr. Bentley of Salem then pronounced an ingenious and learned historical discourse, in which the Robinsons of Europe were exposed in all their imperfections and the Craft ably, boldly, and candidly vindicated.

The Rev. Brother Harris, Grand Chaplain, performed the consecrating duties; and the Right Worshipful Grand Master Josiah Bartlett, and Worshipful Brother Hull each delivered pertinent and adapted charges. You will pardon me for calling your especial attention to what follows, as you all know it is an old saying that "history repeats itself;" and in the matter of entertaining her guests Meridian Lodge is never niggardly.

The Fraternity then repaired to one of the best entertainments ever furnished to so large an assemblage, and which did infinite honor to Brother Welles, the provider.

After dinner many patriotic toasts were given, and the Lodge closed at an early hour. It is evident the Craft were amply able to furnish a literary entertainment fully equal to the gastronomic one that had preceded it; and that too without the august presence of the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, who had—as all *good* Masons do *now*,—gone home early. The record continues:

Among the toasts, after the Grand Lodge had retired, was the following, which for point is rarely equalled: "May we never have a war without a Washington, a Shay without a Lincoln, nor a Morse without a Bentley."

After dinner Brothers Williamson and Jackson, and several assisting brethren, gave a number of Masonic airs and patriotic songs, as—"Adams and Liberty," "Hail Columbia," in the most finished style of melody. The following are the toasts given by the Worshipful Master of the Meridian Lodge:

1. The President of the United States.
2. Bro. Washington: The ornament of Masonry and of men.
3. Most Worshipful Josiah Bartlett: May his exertions in the cause of Masonry be crowned with a never-fading laurel.
4. May the fragrance of a good report, like a sprig of acacia, bloom over the head of every departed brother.
5. May the light of every good Mason be kindled in life, enlighten his death, and blaze through eternity.

6. The American Fair: May their virtues never want defenders while Masonry exists.

7. May the virtue of Freemasonry in America ever be a positive contradiction to the principles of the illuminati.

Surely we have a right to be proud of our Masonic ancestors. They were patriotic and moral; and the toast to the ladies shows they were also a gallant band, setting an example which we have conscientiously tried to follow.

The Lodge was transferred from Watertown to that part of Needham now known as Wellesley Hills. The meetings were held in the building now known as the Elm Park House; then transferred to Newton Lower Falls; and the house is now standing, and some of the emblems—particularly the All-seeing Eye—now remain in the room that was once used for Lodge purposes. This building was moved from Boston,—the motive power being oxen; and was fitted up by Gen. Charles Rice, a brother of Meridian Lodge, and father of the wife of Brother John M. Seaward. The dates of these changes are not material for this short sketch. In March, 1852, however, Meridian Lodge was transferred to Natick.

One fact stands out in bold relief in this somewhat remarkable history. Through all the changes and vicissitudes of Meridian Lodge she never surrendered her Charter; and it is a matter of record that she never wavered in her allegiance and support to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.

Worshipful Master, I have confined my remarks to the locating of the Lodge in this place. Her history since is familiar to most of us. Early in her career she set her standard high, and has been constantly advancing in good works, both ritualistic and charitable, until it seems as if we had almost reached the zenith. From a membership that is not recorded but must have been small, we have grown to the number of two hundred and fifty-six members. One little item of itself will show how great has been the change.

We find it recorded that in entertaining the Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master on the occasion of an official visit, the sum of thirty-seven and a half cents was expended. In contrast with this I will say that in 1887, on a similar occasion, the

expense was about one hundred and fifteen dollars; and at the Regular Communication in May, 1888, there were present seventeen visiting Past Masters, about four hundred brethren, ninety being members of Meridian Lodge; the remainder representing sixty-eight different Lodges from the six New England States, and three from the British Provinces.

At the banquet three hundred and twenty brethren were entertained, and the expense was over one hundred dollars. The charge of thirty-seven and a half cents for the entertainment I fear passed through the hands of the finance committee without careful scrutiny. We all know the expense of keeping the Deputy over night could not have been over twenty-five cents; and the horrible suspicion forces itself upon me that the twelve and a half cents in excess of that sum was spent for two glasses of New England rum! In the absence of a bill, you will understand this is mere conjecture.

Worshipful Master: The sentiment to which you have called me to respond comes to me as the voice of prayer! The sentiment is deeply imbedded in my heart! It courses through every drop of blood in my veins!

Brethren! We are *proud* of Meridian Lodge; of her past struggles and achievements; of her present standing!—*proud* of the long line of bright, earnest workers with whom we have been associated!—*proud* of this gathering, and of the fraternal spirit that has drawn us together. We *are* proud of her, and *no* words can more *fitly* express our sentiments than those of the toast:

"May her sun of glory never set!"

Our Worshipful Past Masters: Whose services in the cause of Freemasonry we hold in appreciative remembrance.

Response by Right Worshipful George J. Townsend, M. D.

It is about three decades since the speaker entered Freemasonry through the portals of Meridian Lodge. Since that time—begin-

ning with the venerable and venerated Malachi Babcock—the list of Worshipful Past Masters includes George L. Sleeper, James Parker, Henry C. Burnham, William H. Wright, Daniel H. L. Gleason, George J. Townsend, Silas H. Bent, Edward H. Wilson, Henry G. Wood, and Frederick Lewis. The special qualifications through which each of these rendered services that were valuable to the cause of Freemasonry were faithfully delineated, and their merits extolled with due appreciation. The exceptional success of Meridian Lodge is a monument to their labors and devotion.

Music by the Band.

The lateness of the hour caused the omission of several other toasts which were upon the list, and the exercises closed.

At 7.45 P. M. Masonic Hall was reopened, and Meridian Lodge tendered a reception to the ladies of Master Masons. The rooms were thronged with Masons and their guests, about four hundred being in attendance. It was a brilliant assemblage, who passed the hours in social converse, in listening to the music of Knowlton and Allen's Orchestra, and at the tables in the Banquet Hall. It was nearly eleven o'clock when the festivities closed and the company dispersed.

Thus ended an eventful day, long to be remembered by the citizens of this town for the brilliant pageant, and by the Masonic fraternity for their greatly enjoyed reunion; for the instruction received, and for the success with which were carried out all the arrangements for this rare celebration of Saint John's Day.

LIST OF COMMITTEES, OFFICERS OF THE DAY, USHERS, ETC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—BADGE SCARLET.

Worshipful Charles C. Henry, Chairman; Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason, Worshipful Silas H. Bent, Worshipful Frederick Lewis, James H. Gilligan, Alfred H. Bryant, James Downs, Charles H. Whitcomb, Frank B Twitchell.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE OF STATE OFFICERS—BADGE, OLD GOLD.

Hon. Charles Q. Tirrell, Hon. Francis Bigelow, Warren A. Bird.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE OF ORATOR AND GRAND OFFICERS—BADGE
PURPLE.

Right Worshipful George J. Townsend, M. D., Right Worshipful Henry G. Wood, Worshipful William H. Wright.

CHIEF MARSHAL.—SASH YELLOW.

Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason.

AIDS—BADGE ORANGE.

Royal B. Wight, Henry F. Felch, George W. Best, Frank W. Shattuck, William L. Doane, James H. Daly.

COMMITTEE ON DECORATIONS.

Harvey H. Whitney, Charles W. Ford, George W. Best.

USHERS, AT RECEPTION OF LADIES IN THE EVENING: CHIEF USHER—BADGE
WHITE, BLUE ROSETTE.

Chester F. Soule. Aids—Badge White: John A. Wood, Jr., George O. Allen, Frank E. Woods, Joseph E. Atwood, John M. Blair, Silas H. Whitcomb, John F. Williams, Waldo Stone, Noah A. Chessman, Arthur Mitchell, M. D.

It may be of interest to note that this was the first appearance of both Governor Ames and Lieutenant-Governor Brackett in public in their official capacity as Masons.

In the parade with Natick Commandery were Sir Knights from Milford, Trinity, and Gethsemane Commanderies of Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Bristol Commandery of Connecticut; and Trinity of Manchester, New Hampshire. Twenty-three were mounted, and there were fifty-eight Swords in line.

NAMES OF MEMBERS OF MERIDIAN LODGE WHO WERE PRESENT.

Right Worshipful George J. Townsend,		
Worshipful D. H. L. Gleason,	Worshipful Silas H Bent,	
Worshipful Frederick Lewis,	Presiding W. M. Charles C. Henry.	
J. H. Gilligan,	J. A. McLeod,	C. H. Whitcomb,
John Rockwood,	C. F. Soule,	J. A. Wood, Jr.,
George O. Allen,	Rev. C. H. Walters,	J. E. Atwood,
Waldo Stone,	F. E. Woods,	Aaron Bellam
H. C. Mulligan,	F. H. Pratt,	George W. Best,
H. W. Atherton,	J. M. Blair,	R. N. Bullard,
H. H. Whitney,	T. L. Sawin,	M. C. Cloudman,
C. W. Bates,	A. J. Ricker,	E. W. Morrill,
J. M. Seaward,	J. H. Daly, D. D. S.	Jacob Seifer,
M. L. Eaton,	M. F. Jones,	F. P. Nute,
C. A. Pooke,	W. F. Tilton.	I. K. Felch,
F. B. Tilton,	W. A. Bird,	Hon. C. Q. Tirrell,
R. B. Wight,	C. W. Ford,	E. C. Huntoon,
A. W. Palmer,	W. E. Robbins,	S. G. Brooks,
C. P. Currier,	W. W. Mitchell, Sr.,	L. L. Howe,
J. T. Johnstone,	E. S. Dodge, M. D.,	Abijah Foskett,
H. F. Felch,	D. C. Felton,	Nathan Reed,
J. A. Bent,	F. J. Bigwood,	Ambrose Bryant,
E. M. Bent,	C. A. Davis,	C. W. Gleason,
A. H. Bryant,	W. C. Bellam,	J. F. Williams,
H. W. True,	J. E. Felch,	C. A. Brown,
H. T. Phipps,	Ralph Bent,	A. P. Cheney,
G. T. Dakin,	E. B. Smith,	C. S. Oliver,
C. H. Haggett,	G. A. Reed,	J. H. Waite.
N. A. Chessman,	C. H. Child,	A. B. Bugbee,
Joseph Seaver,	Oliver Woods,	I. N. Hill,
I. M. Fellows,	Nathaniel Seaver,	D. F. Fiske,
J. A. Fitts,	James Downs,	G. G. Houghton,
G. H. Mills,	G. C. Smith, M. D.,	J. W. Paige,
C. W. Gilman,	James Ryan,	C. L. Hosmer,
W. J. Blood,	George Brierly,	George C. Fairbanks,
N. H. Taylor,	Samuel Currier,	John C. Whitney,
Arthur Mitchell, M. D.,	W. F. Johnson,	F. F. Schumann,
W. D. Parlin,	S. A. Sweetland,	Henry Andrews,
W. W. Wight,	G. W. Leach,	J. A. Bean,
J. H. Wright, M. D.,	F. W. Shattuck,	C. W. Burks,
S. W. Holmes,	I. E. Glidden,	E. A. Hayes,
F. B. Twitchell,	Frederick Reed,	H. J. Dunn,
W. W. Lovejoy,	C. W. Perry,	O. A. Felch,
F. P. Nute,	C. B. Travis,	E. P. Hollis,
A. B. Lyon,	W. L. Doane,	W. H. Bent,

Hon. Francis Bigelow,	W. F. Shattuck,	S. H. Whitcomb,
G. E. Bliss,	C. T. Brooks,	W. J. Stowell.

FELLOW CRAFTS.

C. J. Littlefield,	W. H. Mann,	F. M. Forbush
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ENTERED APPRENTICES.

C. E. Thayer,	S. W. Childs.
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TEMPLE QUARTET OF BOSTON.

Bros. W. R. Bateman,	E. F. Webber,	H. A. Cook,	A. C. Ryder.
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There were also delegations present from the following Lodges :

Washington, Boston, Massachusetts;	Hayden, Brookfield, Massachusetts;
Middlesex, Framingham, "	Orient, Norwood, "
Alpha, So. Framingham, "	Saint Paul's, So. Boston, "
Norfolk, Needham, "	Columbian, Boston, "
Dalhousie, Newtonville, "	Anchor, Wales, "
Rural Lodge, Quincy, "	Mount Hollis, Holliston, "
North Star, Ashland, "	Saint Bernard, Southboro, "
John Warren, Hopkinton, "	United Brethren, Marlboro, "
Solomon's Temple, Uxbridge, "	Ascot, No. 55, Lenoxville, Pr., Que.;
Saint James, Mansfield, "	True Brothers, Pr. Edwards Island;
Franklin, Grafton, "	Winnipisseogee, Alton, N. H.;
Ezekiel Bates, Attleboro, "	Freeport, Freeport, Me.;
Golden Fleece, Lynn, "	Day-Spring, No. 30, Hamden, Conn.;
Cornerstone, Duxbury, "	Meridian Splendor, Newport Me.;
Mount Carmel, Lynn, "	Saint Paul's, Brandon, Vermont;
Olive Branch, Millbury, "	Hiram, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia;
Montgomery, Milford, "	Union, Union, Maine;
Mount Vernon, Malden, "	Morning Star, Wolfboro, N. H.

July 14, 1888.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Elbridge Moulton Phipps, who died on the morning of July 12th, 1888, in the town of Franklin, Massa

chusetts, where he was born December 12th, 1833. He was raised to the degree of Master Mason in Meridian Lodge September, 15th, 1875; exalted in Parker R. A. Chapter September 26th, 1876; and completed the orders of Knighthood in Natick Commandery June 3d, 1878. Brother Phipps was engaged in the blacksmith business at South Natick a number of years before his last illness, which was of nearly two years' duration.

The Lodge proceeded to Franklin and consigned the clay of our brother to the earth with the last sad rites of our order, in accordance with his dying request.—Worshipful Charles C. Henry presiding, assisted by the venerable Chaplain of Excelsior Lodge. The members of Excelsior Lodge of Franklin performed escort duty for Meridian Lodge, and every fraternal courtesy possible was extended to us by our brethren at Franklin.

July 18, 1888.

Regular Communication: The following votes of thanks were passed this evening: To Aurora Chapter O. E. S. for valuable assistance rendered in decorating Masonic Hall and the First Congregational Church on St. John's Day; to Parker Royal Arch Chapter and Natick Commandery K. T. for escort duty on the same occasion; to Judge Edwin Wright of Boston for his eloquent and scholarly oration; and to Mrs. S. Ellen Whitcomb for her kindness in composing the ode sung on that day. It was also—

Voted, That the thanks of this Lodge be tendered to Excelsior Lodge A. F. and A. M. of Franklin, Massachusetts, for their kindness and courtesies extended to the delegation of Meridian Lodge while attending the funeral of our late Brother E. M. Phipps; and that this vote of thanks be properly engrossed, framed, and presented to Excelsior Lodge.

August 15, 1888.

Voted, Twenty-five dollars for relief of needy brother.

The following letter was read and recorded:

BOSTON, August 3, 1888.

C. C. HENRY, WORSHIPFUL MASTER MERIDIAN LODGE,—

WORSHIPFUL AND DEAR BROTHER: I have received from your

Secretary the vote of your Lodge by which they are pleased to speak most kindly and approvingly of the address I had the honor to deliver before Meridian Lodge and its guests on last Saint John's Day. I had hoped to speak on that occasion, as on all others, alike to the pleasure and profit of the brethren. To be assured that I succeeded in this,—and before so large, intelligent, and select an audience as you furnished me,—is praise and compensation sufficient for any ambition.

Your generous words of compliment, “unanimously” expressed, are therefore very grateful to my feelings, and will make the delightful occasion of St. John's Day a sweet memory of labor done and fraternally appreciated. Please convey my highest regards to Meridian Lodge, and the assurance of my wishes for its continuous prosperity; and believe me, in the bonds of fraternal friendship,

Ever yours,

EDWIN WRIGHT.

September 19, 1892.

Regular Communication, at which an engrossed vote of thanks passed at a recent meeting was formally presented by the Worshipful Master to a delegation of Excelsior Lodge at Franklin, Massachusetts.

Brother Frank M. Forbush presented Worshipful Master C. C. Henry with an elaborate album containing the portraits of the thirty-one brethren whom Worshipful Brother Henry raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason during his two years' occupancy of the “chair.” The album was composed of fine and choice woods covered with crimson plush, and mounted on a plush-covered stand of the same color. The outside cover bears this inscription on a silver plate:

CHARLES C. HENRY,
 WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF MERIDIAN LODGE A. F. AND A. M.,
 FROM BROTHERS UPON WHOM HE CONFERRED
 THE DEGREES IN FREEMASONRY.
 SEPTEMBER 19, 1888.

There were present at this Communication about three hundred Master Masons. It appears that there were registered one hundred and twenty brethren from forty-three Lodges, and representing six States of the Union, and one each from Scotland and

Quebec: Work on the Third Degree. Temple Quartet of Boston furnished vocal music.

October 19, 1888.

Ninety-first Annual Communication, and official visitation of Henry G. Wood, District Deputy Grand Master for the Twenty-first District of Massachusetts: Members in good standing to date, 270: Brother James Hastings Gilligan elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. At the close of the Lodge the brethren sat down to a banquet. There were 135 members of the Lodge present.

November 14, 1888.

Regular Communication and Installation of James H. Gilligan as Worshipful Master, and other officers elect for the ensuing year, by, Frederick Lewis, assisted by Worshipful Charles C. Henry.

An interesting episode of the evening was the presentation to Meridian Lodge, by Worshipful Brother A. F. Haynes of Pequossette Lodge of Watertown, the original Gavel used by Meridian Lodge when located in Watertown.

SPEECH OF WORSHIPFUL BROTHER HAYNES.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF MERIDIAN LODGE:

Pequossette Lodge of Watertown extends to you, and through you to Meridian Lodge, fraternal greeting. There has ever existed between us a peculiar bond of sympathy and attachment. Meridian Lodge was instituted at Watertown, but was compelled by circumstances to migrate until it finally became permanently established in Natick. It has passed through the dark Masonic days into the bright season when the craft is everywhere honored and esteemed.

Pequossette Lodge, instituted thirty years ago, has grown and flourished since the better days began, and holds high the standard which Meridian Lodge raised in Watertown. It has now a pleasant duty to perform. I am instructed by Pequossette Lodge to present to you this ancient Gavel believed to be the original

Gavel used by Meridian Lodge while in Watertown. It was placed in the archives of Pequossette Lodge a number of years ago, with other effects belonging to one of the oldest members, Bro. Joseph Crafts, now deceased, who had also served as Town Clerk many years, and was in various respects a worthy Mason. While to Pequossette Lodge it has appeared a valuable memento, yet it seemed still more fitting and proper that this Gavel should be transmitted to Meridian Lodge, to which it belongs by prior right. It is of rude workmanship, yet it is the emblem of a solemn and holy Masonic past; and I trust it will be cherished as a reminder of the hardships and struggles of our loyal Masonic ancestors, while it also represents the good will existing between Pequossette Lodge of Watertown, and Meridian Lodge of Natick.

Worshipful Master Gilligan responded briefly, expressing his thanks, and saying that Meridian Lodge was always pleased to receive relics of former times, and that this Gavel would be treasured the more carefully, as our records were destroyed beyond a few years that are past.

He furthermore said that the presentation was expected to occur earlier in the evening; and that Past Master Charles C. Henry had prepared a nice little speech of thanks, which he called upon him to deliver.

Worshipful Charles C. Henry denied the impeachment of the Worshipful Master, but added his thanks to those of the Master, and also his appreciation of the motive which had prompted this fraternal and courteous act.

December 12, 1888.

Regular Communication.

Voted, That the Wor. Master, and Senior and Junior Wardens be a Committee to prepare some suitable acknowledgement of the receipt of the Gavel presented to this Lodge November 14th, and present it to Pequossette Lodge of Watertown.

December 19, 1888.

Brother Ira Russell, M. D., an initiate of Middlesex Lodge of

Framingham, who became affiliated with Meridian Lodge August 30th, 1865, died at his home in Winchendon, Massachusetts today, after a continuous membership of nearly a quarter of a century. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College, receiving the degree of M. D. in 1844. He enlisted in the United States Army as Surgeon of the Eleventh Massachusetts Volunteers August 21st, 1861. He prepared the papers for the Medical and Sanitary History of the War, for which his prolonged and varied experience in the army furnished ample material. He resigned his commission June 29th, 1865, and was breveted Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. V. January 1st, 1865, for faithful and meritorious services to his country.

He was a Charter member of North Star Chapter Royal Arch Masons at Winchendon, Massachusetts, where he was exalted August 10th, 1872.

He was buried with Masonic honors, in accordance with his dying request, at Winchendon, December 21st, 1888; the Worshipful Master James H. Gilligan, assisted by Worshipful Brother Charles C. Henry, performing the ceremonies as the representatives of Meridian Lodge; Artisan Lodge of Winchendon acting as escort.

January 16, 1889.

Regular Communication: Brother John Rockwood resigns his position as Secretary, much to the regret of the members of the Lodge. Brother Rockwood was known throughout the jurisdiction as the model Masonic Secretary. He was an exceptionally fine penman, and possessed also that rare ability to record with good judgment all the important minutes of a Communication. His Record-books, without exaggeration, are a work of high art, and will always be prized as such by the Lodge.

February 13, 1889.

Regular Communication: Election and Installation of Worshipful Charles C. Henry as Secretary to fill the unexpired term of Brother John Rockwood.

March 13, 1889.

Regular Communication: The Worshipful Master stated that

in accordance with the vote of the Lodge he had presented to the Worshipful Master of Pequossette Lodge, at their Regular Communication, held on the evening of February 14th, 1889, at Watertown, the engrossed testimonial prepared in recognition of the presentation to Meridian Lodge of the original Gavel; and also stated that the delegation from this Lodge was most cordially received and entertained on that occasion; and at the banquet Worshipful Brother Davis of Pequossette Lodge presented to him an old decanter which was also the property of Meridian Lodge when located at Watertown.

[For a fac simile of the engrossed testimonial see Appendix.]

April 10, 1889.

Regular Communication. A pleasant incident of this Communication was the presentation of a fine gold watch to our faithful Treasurer, Brother Charles H. Whitcomb. The presentation was made by Worshipful Master James H. Gilligan, in behalf of the brethren of the Lodge. Among other things the Worshipful Master said: "Not among the least of the brethren whose names shall for all time illumine the pages of our Records for their devotion and zeal to the craft, will be found that of our honored and respected Treasurer. For fourteen years you have held the important position of Treasurer. During all this time you have rendered faithful and valuable service to your brethren without fee or reward, save that reward which comes from the consciousness of duty well done."

May 5, 1889.

Special Communication to attend the funeral of our late venerable brother, William W. Mitchell, at South Framingham; Alpha Lodge of the above place acting as escort to Meridian Lodge. His remains were interred with the impressive rites of our Order, performed by Worshipful Master James H. Gilligan, assisted by Rev. Brother William W. Hayward of Medfield [See biography of Brother Mitchell on page 108.]

May 11, 1889.

Brother Claudius Buchanan Travis died today, after a protracted illness, at the age of fifty-eight years, one month, and twenty-

five days. He was born in Natick in 1831, and had always been identified with the interests of the town. He was for years one of the most prominent shoe-manufacturers, and held positions of honor and trust in the affairs of the town; the most prominent being that of Selectman. He possessed a genial nature, and was beloved and respected by all who knew him.

He was raised to the degree of Master Mason in Meridian Lodge January 28th, 1863, and was at the time of his death, an honorary member of the Lodge. He was installed Senior Warden of Meridian Lodge November 9th, 1864, and November 1st, 1865, after which he declined further promotion.

He was buried with Masonic honors in Dell Park Cemetery on the 14th instant; Natick Commandery Knights Templar, and Parker Royal Arch Chapter with the Natick Cadet Band acting as escort to Meridian Lodge. The burial service was performed by Worshipful Master Gilligan, assisted by Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason as Chaplain.

May 15, 1889.

Regular Communication, at which Worshipful Brother Charles Storer of Meridian Lodge, presents to the Lodge a crayon portrait of Junior Past Master Charles C. Henry, to be hung upon the wall of the Lodge. In presenting it Worshipful Brother Storer made a very complimentary speech on the service of our Worshipful Brother Henry to the Lodge, which space and *modesty* forbids publishing in this connection.

The crayon is an excellent portrait of Worshipful Brother Henry in full Master's regalia, and was executed by the donor and artist, Worshipful Charles Storer. It is mounted in a heavy oak frame and enameled mat, which was furnished by several members and intimate personal friends of the subject of the picture.

In accepting the gift Worshipful Master Gilligan said: "It gives me great pleasure to receive from your hands this excellent portrait of our Junior Past Master; and in behalf of the Lodge I extend to you, and the brethren associated with you in securing this gift, my sincere and heartfelt thanks. Let me assure you that it shall always be cherished by the Lodge, and placed in a proper position."

On motion of Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason it was—
Voted, To formally accept the gift placed in the keeping of the Lodge.

June 12, 1889.

Rev. Brother C. H. Walters, Chaplain of the Lodge, invited the brethren to attend his church at Cochituate on Sunday, June 28d, and listen to a sermon appropriate to Saint John's Day.

June 23, 1889.

Special Communication Sunday for the purpose of attending the Divine Service at the Church (Methodist) of Rev. Brother Charles H. Walters, Chaplain, at Cochituate, in commemoration of Saint John the Baptist, one of the patron saints of Freemasonry. Our Reverend Brother preached a forcible sermon on Charity, taking his text from 1 Kings, vii. 21-2.

At a subsequent meeting of the Lodge, held July 10th, a vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to Rev. Brother Walters for his able and instructive effort on this occasion.

July 10, 1889.

Regular Communication: The Lodge adopted the proposed amendment to the By-laws submitted by Worshipful Charles C. Henry, which provides for the purchasing of Life-membership by any brother who is disposed; also providing that any member who has, or may in the future, pay dues for thirty consecutive years, shall be enrolled a Life-member without fee [See By-laws].

At this Communication there was presented to the Lodge by the Rev. William W. Hayward, on behalf of our Brother Edwin V. Mitchell, an elegant Bible, and heavy solid silver square and compasses, inlaid with gold, to be used as the Three Great Lights of the Lodge.

In memory of his late venerable father, who was one of the oldest members of the Lodge at the time of his death, a short sketch of our late brother's life would seem to be appropriate at this point:

WILLIAM WALKER MITCHELL.

Was born August 7th, 1805, in the town of Woolwich, Lincoln County, Maine (known at that time as the District of Maine), and died at South Framingham, Massachusetts, May 3d, 1889.

He was the son of Captain Richard and Sarah Walker Mitchell, and was the eldest of ten children. He resided on the farm with his parents, and attended the public schools until he reached the age of fifteen, when he shipped on a vessel commanded by an uncle, Captain Charles Wade. During the three years he spent in the merchant service he acquired a love for the sea which proved a source of pleasure to him through life.

In 1824, having learned the carpenter's trade, he assisted in framing, at Wiscasset, Maine, a frame for the first rope-walk, erected on the "milldam" at Boston. This monster frame was shipped to its destination, and young William was selected to superintend its erection. From that time until 1853 he divided his time between carpentry and farming in Maine and Massachusetts. In February, 1829, he moved to Saugerville, Penobscot (now Piscataquis) County, Maine, and in December following was married to Sarah Phipps Leland, with whom he passed a happy domestic life for nearly sixty years, and reared a family of ten children; five of whom, with his wife, survived him at his death. In 1853 he moved with his family to South Framingham, Massachusetts, establishing a home, where he spent the remainder of his life.

In his religious views and belief he was always liberal. At an early age he joined the Methodist Church; but upon his removal to South Framingham, there being then no Methodist Society there, he became a member of the Baptist Church. He afterwards assisted in the formation of the present Methodist Society, and was a constant attendant the rest of his life. From his earliest years he was a constant and earnest student of the Bible; and as a Mason, often carried for his Lodge, in their solemn ceremonies, the Book he loved so well.

Upon attaining his majority he was favorably inclined to join the Masonic fraternity; but at that time Masonry was surrounded by the shadows of Anti-masonry, and a strong prejudice existed

against it in those dark hours of its history, and he was persuaded by influential parties not to join; but in 1856 (October 15th) he fulfilled his heart's desire, and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Meridian Lodge.

Ever true to the noble principles of our institution, his daily life was an earnest of what Masonry really is. So far as it was possible he was a regular attendant at its meetings, walking the distance from South Framingham to Natick and return, and accompanied on those trips by the faithful and loving companion of his life, who would pass the evenings with friends and neighbors until the Lodge-meetings were closed.

Thus lived our brother; a beloved and exemplary member from his initiation to the Special Communication called to lay him at rest with the touching and beautiful tributes of our order.

At the funeral services, held on Sunday, May 5th, 1889, under the direction of Meridian Lodge, Rev. A. J. Hall of the Methodist Church made a beautiful address, in which he portrayed the noble and exalted life of our departed brother. Following, the Rev. William W. Hayward of Medfield paid a touching tribute to his grand and pure character.

Rev. E. S. Wheeler of the Baptist Church then paid a tribute of love to the memory of our brother from himself and his people.

He counselled the members of the family and of the churches, as well as the members of the fraternity with which the departed had been so honorably connected, to make use of his virtuous, faithful, Christian example, as that, although dead, their friend should yet live in their lives, and speak through their voices for every cause represented by good men. The remembrance of such souls is a benediction, and we should transmit faithfully to others the beneficent influence of such lives.

At the close of the services at the church, the procession was re-formed, and moved to Church Hill Cemetery, Framingham, where the interment was made according to the Masonic ritual.

August 7, 1889.

Regular Communication, at which a unanimous vote of thanks

was passed expressing the appreciation of the Lodge to Brother Edwin V. Mitchell for the rich gift of the "Three Great Lights" in Freemasonry at the July meeting.

September 4, 1889.

Regular Communication and first annual official visit of Right Worshipful Emory Grover, District Deputy Grand Master and suite of the Twenty-first Masonic District: Work on the Master Mason's Degree.

September 19, 1889.

This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the night when Brother George A. Reed was made a Freemason; and in celebrating the event, he drew about him, by invitation, at the Banquet Hall of Meridian Lodge in Natick, about fifty of his Masonic friends. At about 8 o'clock, when all had gathered about the long tables spread by caterer Brother James Downs, Brother Reed thus addressed the company:

It gives me great pleasure to greet you here this evening as my special guests; and I thank you for the honor you do me by being present here in such large numbers. My object is simply a social one. I have for a long time been planning to meet my personal Masonic friends and spend an evening with them socially; and it recently suggested itself to me that the twenty-fifth anniversary of my receiving the honorable degree of Master Mason would be a most appropriate time for this social occasion; but as I look into your faces, my thoughts turn back to the 19th of September, 1864, just a quarter of a century ago this very evening, and bring back to my mind's eye the faces of those who surrounded me when I took upon myself the solemn obligation of a Master Mason. I am saddened as I remember most of those friendly faces and cheerful voices now cold and silent in death, and I shall no more feel the warm grasp of the hand. But death is not the expiring hope of faithful Masons. We believe that we shall meet again to part no more.

Brethren, you will pardon me for referring to the sad side of

this occasion ; but you know our hearts naturally turn to the old friends of our early manhood on occasions like these, with whom you and I have spent many pleasant and happy hours. Brother Downs has provided for us a lunch, which I now invite you all to sit down to and enjoy with me, and pass the remainder of the evening in a social and informal manner.

When the eating was over, and cigars were passed, Brother Reed spoke of his entrance into the ancient fraternity, and read the records of Meridian Lodge for the meeting of twenty-five years ago. from which it appeared that Brother Reed, being at home on a furlough, and about to depart for the front on the following day, he was permitted by a dispensation to take all his degrees in one night, and become a full-fledged Mason. Those were war times. In the army he observed that many Southern soldiers, although politically bitter, were, when members of the Order, true to its principles, with all that that implied.

Brother Nathan Reed of Felchville, an uncle of the host, was first called on for remarks. He responded happily ; said he was proud of George : for his own boy, within five days of the age of George, was killed in the army, and since then his nephew had been like his own son to him.

Brother I. M. Fellows of Natick, and Worshipful Charles C. Henry of Wellesley Hills, followed felicitously, and then Brother Walter Adams of Framingham was introduced. He had been a Mason nineteen years, and was proud to belong to Middlesex Lodge, the oldest one in the district ; and one that in the dark Masonic days never missed a meeting. Its charter bears the signature of Paul Revere.

Hon. Charles Q. Tirrell was the next speaker ; and after some interesting remarks, he said he proposed to watch Brother Reed ; and forthwith he produced a red plush case in which rested a handsomely engraved gold watch, and in behalf of the brothers present handed it over to the astonished recipient. There was a flush of the face, a moistening of the eyes, and a break in the voice, as George Reed arose to accept the token of esteem, which told more eloquently than the words he uttered of his grateful appreciation of the kind and thoughtful (and we may say timely) act which came to him as such a surprise. He did respond feeling-

ly, however. The watchcase bears the monogram "G. A. R." and the dial bears his name, with Masonic emblem.

Worshipful Bro. Daniel H. L. Gleason said that in all the years he had known Brother Reed he had never known anything to his discredit. His word was as good as any man's bond. He has honored Meridian Lodge in living up to his obligations. Brief remarks were made by Brothers C. W. Gleason, P. H. Cooney, Sidney Brooks, Charles Davis of Natick, and Brother Dolliver of Auburndale.

Interesting remarks, all complimentary to Brother Reed, were made by Brother F. H. Sprague of Saxonville,—the oldest Mason present, having joined the Order in 1850,—and by Brothers J. D. Thomas, L. R. Landy, and Charles J. McPherson of South Framingham.

The occasion closed with best wishes for Brother Reed, and with hopes that he would celebrate again in twenty-five years.

October 2, 1889.

Ninety-second Annual Communication, and re-election of Worshipful James H. Gilligan: Membership 268. All the elective officers at this annual meeting were elected unanimously: rather an unusual occurrence in this Lodge.

November 6, 1889.

Regular Communication: Installation of Worshipful James H. Gilligan and other officers elect by Grand Lecturer and Right Worshipful Gifford H. G. McGrew, assisted by Worshipful Past Master Frederick Lewis. At the close of the ceremony the brethren partook of an installation banquet, prepared by caterer Brother James Downs.

December 21, 1889.

Special Communication for the purpose of paying the last tribute of love and respect to our late Worshipful Past Master William Hilman Wright [See Biography of Past Masters].

At high noon a procession was formed, and proceeded under escort of Parker Royal Arch Chapter and Natick Commandery

Knights Templar, headed by the Natick Cadet Band, to the town limits to receive the remains of our late Worshipful Brother, en route from his late residence at Ashland. The funeral cortege was met near Dell Park Cemetery, on Central street, and escorted to the Congregational Church, where divine services were held under the direction of Rev. Brother S. L. Gracey, D.D., assisted by Rev. Doctors Sturgis and Peloubet.

At the close of the church service the remains were taken in charge by Meridian Lodge and conveyed to Masonic Hall, where the regular and impressive funeral rites of the Order he so much loved in life were performed by Worshipful Master Gilligan, assisted by Worshipful Brother Daniel H. L. Gleason as Chaplain, and the Tempie Quartet of Boston, which rendered appropriate vocal music in presence of relatives, friends, employees, and citizens of Natick.

At the conclusion of the Masonic service a Guard of Honor was detailed from the Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery to watch over the remains from Saturday evening until Monday morning, during which time they lie in state in the Lodge-room.

Monday A. M., December 23d, his remains were taken by train to Pepperell, Massachusetts, for interment, accompanied by delegations from the Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery. On arrival at the place of interment, all that was mortal of our beloved Worshipful brother and friend was tenderly laid in the tomb by the hands of his brethren.

Upon the return of the delegations the Worshipful Master summoned his officers and closed the Lodge in form at 6.55 o'clock P. M., December 23; the Lodge having been open from 12 o'clock high noon Saturday, until Monday evening. The Lodge-room was very tastefully and impressively decorated with an abundance of flowers and emblems of mourning.

February 5, 1890.

Regular Communication, at which Worshipful Brother Charles C. Henry presented Worshipful Master Gilligan with a Past Master's Jewel on behalf of the brethren of the Lodge. Among other things, Worshipful Brother Henry said:

"You have been actively engaged in the work and interests of

the Lodge since you were admitted nearly twelve years ago. You have held various positions of trust and responsibility until by the voice of your brethren you were esteemed worthy to fill the honorable position which you occupy tonight as Worshipful Master of a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Twice you have been elected to this exalted position among Masons; and this fact alone is sufficient evidence to you of our regard and confidence. Yet your brethren wish to leave with you a token which will speak to you when many of our hearts shall have ceased to beat, and our tongues shall be unable to utter the sentiments we gladly speak tonight."

The Jewel is an elegant specimen of the jeweller's art, and was gratefully accepted by Worshipful Master Gilligan.

The following letter of thanks was also recorded:

ASHLAND, Mass., Jan. 7, 1890.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, OFFICERS, AND MEMBERS OF
MERIDIAN LODGE ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS,
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS—

GENTLEMEN: Permit me to express to you my sincere thanks and appreciation for the perfect manner in which all the details of the funeral arrangements of my late husband were carried out; and especially for the very impressive service at the Hall, and for the honors paid him while lying in state during a portion of three days and two nights. I assure you that I shall ever remember your kind and fraternal services with the deepest gratitude and appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. WILLIAM H. WRIGHT.

March 12, 1890.

Special Communication: Worshipful James H. Gilligan elected Trustee of Charity Fund in place of Worshipful William H. Wright, deceased.

April 2, 1890.

Regular Communication.

Voted, To contribute ten dollars to the fund being raised by the Freemasons of Virginia to erect a Masonic Temple at Fredericksburg of that State as a memorial of George Washington in the capacity of a Freemason.

April 19, 1890.

Brother Samuel Jacob DeLue died today in Boston after a long and painful illness. He was born in Saint Johns, New Brunswick, October 28th, 1845; and was made a Master Mason in Meridian Lodge June 4th, 1884. He was buried with Masonic honors by Meridian Lodge in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Boston, April 21st, by his special request; Worshipful Master James H. Gilligan presiding, and Worshipful S. H. Bent acting as Chaplain.

May 7, 1890.

Appropriated \$77.00 for the relief of a deceased brother's family.

May 21, 1890.

Special Communication: Raised four brethren to the degree of Master Mason. An interesting feature of the evening was the participation in the work of the second section of the degree of the following Past Masters, each of whom raised one of the candidates: Worshipful James M. Woods, Past Master of Montgomery Lodge of Milford; Worshipful Lewis M. Palmer, M. D., Past Master of Alpha Lodge, South Framingham; Worshipful George H. Hooker, Past Master of North Star Lodge of Ashland; Worshipful Charles C. Henry, Junior Past Master of Meridian Lodge, Natick.

The work of the evening was performed with much ability and impressiveness by Worshipful Master Gilligan and his assistants.

There were present at this Communication about 325 brethren, representing some seventy-eight different Lodges.

May 30, 1890.

Brother William K. Hills, an initiate of 1867, died today. He was born in Boston July 13th, 1841; served in the late war in Company F, 45th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. He was

in the employ of the Boston and Albany Railroad for over twenty years.

He was buried with Masonic honors Sunday, June 1st, in the village cemetery at Wayland, by Meridian Lodge; Worshipful James H. Gilligan presiding, assisted by Worshipful Past Master Silas H. Bent Acting Chaplain.

September 24, 1890.

Regular Communication: Appropriated \$70.00 for relief of a deceased brother's widow.

October 1, 1890.

Special Communication, and second Annual Official Visit of Right Worshipful Judge Emory Grover, District Deputy Grand Master for the Twenty-first Masonic District: Work on the Master Mason's Degree, and banquet in honor of the occasion.

October 7, 1890

Brother Mark Woodbury Hall died today at his residence in Sherborn. He was born at Groton, New Hampshire, October 22d, 1837; raised in Zetland Lodge, Boston, June 13th, 1883; and affiliated with Meridian Lodge January 20th, 1888.

October 22, 1890.

Ninety-third Annual Communication, and election of Brother Chester Francis Soule as Worshipful Master.

Membership, 277.

October 25, 1890.

Brother Joshua Gardner died today at Milford, Massachusetts, at the advanced age of ninety-one years. He was born in Phippsburg, Maine, January 17th, 1800. He was made a Master Mason in Bethesda Lodge at Brighton, Massachusetts, April 8th, 1823; affiliated with Meridian Lodge at a date unknown, owing to the loss of our Records, and was its Tyler in 1845-6-7-8; subsequently became a member of Montgomery Lodge at Milford, and so remained up to the time of his death; was made an honorary member of Meridian Lodge August 6th, 1885, when eighty-

five years of age ; and at the time of his death had been a member of the fraternity for sixty-seven years.

He was buried with Masonic honors, in accord with his oft repeated request, by Montgomery Lodge, at Milford, October 28th, 1890,—a delegation from Meridian Lodge attending. He was true to his allegiance during the dark days of Freemasonry

November 26, 1890.

Annual Installation of officers: Previous to the Installation Worshipful Past Master Charles C. Henry presented to Worshipful Master James H. Gilligan a beautiful Past Master's apron on behalf of a number of his personal Masonic friends, in appreciation of his faithful services to the Craft.

Worshipful Brother Gilligan, assisted by Worshipful Brother Frederick Lewis, then proceeded to install Brother Chester F. Soule Master, and other officers elect, and appointed into their their various positions.

November 28, 1890.

Brother William Henry Mann died today from injuries received by accident November 24th, in the factory of Searle, Daily & Company at Medfield. He was born at Dover, Massachusetts, October 23d, 1854 ; raised to the degree of Master Mason in Meridian Lodge August 1st, 1888. He was buried at Medfield, Massachusetts, with Masonic honors Sunday, November 30th. The ancient and impressive services were performed by Worshipful Master Chester F. Soule, assisted by Rev. Brother W. W. Hayward as Chaplain. Parker Royal Arch Chapter of Natick, and Mount Nebo Council Royal Arcanum of Medfield, of both of which organizations Brother Mann was a member at the time of his death, performed escort duty to the Lodge.

January 21, 1891.

Regular Communication : On motion—

A vote of thanks was tendered to the Grand Army of the Republic Post, and ladies of Medfield, for the hospitality and many courtesies extended to the Lodge on the occasion of William H. Mann's funeral.

January 22, 1891.

Brother George A. Nute died in Natick today, suddenly, of pleuro-pneumonia. He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, March, 1842; was made a Master Mason in Meridian Lodge September 7th, 1881; and his mortal parts were entombed with Masonic honors on Monday, January 26th.—Worshipful Master Chester F. Soule presiding; Rev. Brother C. W. Blackett, Chaplain, assisting.

Our Brother was a valiant soldier in the War of the Rebellion, enlisting in Company C, Thirteenth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers. He served until 1864, when he was taken prisoner by the Rebels in front of Petersburg, and was held by them until the close of the war.

February 18, 1891.

Regular Communication.

As the Past Masters were being conducted to the East, Worshipful Brother Henry L. Sawyer, of Lafayette Lodge, Roxbury, Massachusetts, and an initiate of Meridian Lodge under the administration of Worshipful Brother Daniel H. L. Gleason, addressed Worshipful Brother Gleason, and on behalf of members of Meridian Lodge, presented him with an elegant Past Master's apron as a token of the appreciation of the brethren for eminent services rendered the Lodge as Worshipful Master, and other positions of honor held by him during his connection with the Lodge; and also as a mark of their esteem for him as a valiant soldier, citizen, and Mason.

Presentation to the Lodge of the Masonic diploma of Brother John M Seaward Sr., first Treasurer of the Lodge after its removal to Natick in 1852, by Worshipful Charles C. Henry in behalf of the family of our late Brother Seaward. Worshipful Brother Henry addressed the Lodge as follows:

WORSHIPFUL MASTER: The family of our late Brother John M. Seaward, Sr., first Treasurer of the Lodge after its removal to Natick in March, 1852, requested me to tender to Meridian Lodge his Masonic Diploma for preservation, which was granted to him

by Olive Branch Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons No. 16, located at Plymouth, New Hampshire, in 1821—seventy years ago; and I take this opportunity to comply with that request, and formally present it to the Lodge.

Brother Seaward was so intimately identified with the early history of the Lodge at Natick that I have deemed it important that a brief record of his connection with Meridian Lodge be given at this time, that future generations who shall conduct the affairs of this Lodge may know the prominent part he played in introducing the Order of Freemasonry into Natick.

Brother John M. Seaward was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, June 8th, 1792; and at the age of twenty-nine years received the degrees of symbolic Masonry; having been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason June 13th, 1821, in Olive Branch Lodge of Plymouth, New Hampshire. In April, 1845, he moved to Natick Massachusetts with his family, among whom was included Brother John M. Seaward, Jr., who is at present one of the venerable honorary members of this Lodge, having received in it the degrees thirty-five years ago.

The subject of this sketch, after his arrival in Natick, opened and conducted a general country store; and from 1849 until 1854 was the Postmaster of Natick. He was one of the few Masons residing in this vicinity in 1852 who secured the consent of the members of Meridian Lodge, then located at Newton Lower Falls, to have it removed to this town. Their efforts proved successful; and in March 1852 they were granted a dispensation for that purpose, and the change of location was made at once.

Upon the reorganization of the Lodge in Natick in the same month, Brother Seaward was elected its first Treasurer, and held that position until his death in 1863. In conversation with some of the elder members of the Lodge who knew him as a business man and as a brother in the fraternity, I have learned that he was a man possessed of many sterling qualities of mind and heart, and was a zealous and ardent advocate of the principles of Freemasonry.

His first entry upon the books of the Lodge was made April 15th, 1852; and his last entry November 25th, 1863; his death occurring on the 14th day of December 1863, at the age of seven-

ty-one years. He was buried with Masonic honors by Meridian Lodge in Dell Park Cemetery, in Natick, on the 17th day of December, 1863. As one of the brethren who knew him in the flesh remarked to me recently, "He lived respected, and died regretted."

On motion of Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason it was—

Voted, That the Lodge accept the Diploma, and that it be suitably framed : Also that a vote of thanks be tendered to the family of our late brother.

Right Worshipful Gifford H. G. McGrew, Grand Lecturer, was present as the guest of the Lodge ; also a large number of Past and Presiding Masters from neighboring Lodges. A Banquet was served at the close of the Lodge.

April 22, 1891.

It was—

Voted, That the Worshipful Master appoint a Committee to prepare and publish a History of Meridian Lodge :—

And the Worshipful Master appointed the following brethren on that Committee : Worshipful Past Master Charles C. Henry, Chairman ; and Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason, and Brother Isaac M. Fellows.

By invitation of Worshipful Master Chester F. Soule, the Worshipful Master and other officers of Isaac Parker Lodge, Waltham, Massachusetts, were present for the purpose of conferring the Fellow Craft degree upon the candidates of the evening. The work was performed in a most able and intelligent manner, reflecting great credit upon the invited guests, and proved to be a most interesting feature of the evening. A Banquet was enjoyed at the close of the Communication.

May 20, 1891.

Regular Communication : An evening of unusual interest. The first feature of interest was the presentation to the Lodge by Worshipful Brother Daniel H. L. Gleason, on behalf of Mrs. William H. Wright, the crayon portrait of her late husband, and our Wor-

shipful Brother William Hilman Wright. In presenting the portrait, Worshipful Brother Gleason said :

WORSHIPFUL MASTER AND BRETHREN :

A few months ago we were called to mourn the loss of a loved brother ; one who had endeared himself to us in many ways through a long series of years. The loss was not only a great one to Meridian Lodge, but we each felt it to be a personal one. He was a genial pleasant companion and friend,—of a charitable generous disposition. His was the ready hand to assist the unfortunate, or forward any Masonic work. “Cut off” in the midst of his usefulness, the memory of his virtues shall last till time shall be no more.”

His widow, fully appreciating the love of Meridian Lodge for him, and the many acts of friendship and consideration towards her, presents this portrait of our late Worshipful Brother William Hilman Wright as a slight token of her remembrance of those acts of brotherly interest and regard.

Worshipful Master ! accept it for Meridian Lodge ; and as it hangs upon our walls, and our eyes gaze upon his kindly face, may a slight portion of his wisdom and virtue descend upon and abide with us !

The Worshipful Master responded as follows :

WORSHIPFUL BROTHER GLEASON :

I hardly know how to reply to your eloquent remarks. I know that some of the older members, having a longer and more intimate acquaintance with our late Worshipful brother, could reply in a much more fitting manner ; but in behalf of Meridian Lodge I accept this beautiful gift, the portrait of our late Worshipful Brother Wright ; . . . and I assure you that this tribute of Mrs. Wright shall have a prominent place upon our walls, and I know that it will be cherished with gratitude by all.

The Worshipful Master then again addressed Worshipful Bro. Gleason, and presented him with an elegantly engrossed testimo-

nial bearing the names and complimentary sentiments of the brethren who presented to him a Past Master's Apron at a recent Communication.

The next interesting episode of the evening was the conferring of the third degree upon three candidates by an organization composed of the following named Past Masters and Past Officers of the Lodge :

Rt. Wor. Geo. J. Townsend, M. D.,	Master in 1873-6, as Worshipful Master;
Wor. Daniel H. L. Gleason,	" in 1874, as Senior Warden;
Wor. George L. Sleeper,	" in 1858, as Junior Warden;
Bro. I. N. Hill,	Treasurer in 1864-7, as Treasurer;
Bro. A. P. Cheney,	Secretary in 1875-6, as Secretary;
Bro. R. H. Randall,	Chaplain in 1886, as Chaplain;
Wor. E. H. Wilson,	Master in 1880-1, as Marshal;
Wor. Charles C. Henry,	" in 1886-7, as Senior Deacon;
Wor. Silas H. Bent,	" in 1877-9, as Junior Deacon;
Wor. Frederick Lewis,	" in 1884-5, as Senior Steward;
Wor. James H. Gilligan,	" in 1888-9, as Junior Steward;
Bro. James Downs,	Inside Sentinel in 1886-8, as Inside Sentinel;
Bro. W. D. Parlin,	Organist in 1871, as Organist;
Bro. R. N. Bullard,	Tyler in 1867, as Tyler.

The occasion was both novel and interesting; and the work was rendered in such an able and impressive manner as to call forth expressions of admiration from the large company of brothers who had assembled to witness the exemplification. The vocal music was rendered by the Weber Quartet of Boston. A Banquet was enjoyed by all present at the close of the Lodge.

At this Communication Right Worshipful George J. Townsend, M. D. presented to the Lodge, neatly framed, a fac simile of the charter of Corinthian Lodge, located at Concord, Massachusetts, which is said to be an exact copy of the original charter of Meridian Lodge, with the exception of the names of petitioners and dates.

July 15, 1891.

Regular Communication.

Voted, That the Lodge appropriate one hundred dollars for the purchase of a Past Master's Jewel for each Master who shall have served at least one year in the East of the Lodge.

Worshipful Master Soule reported that at a recent meeting of Pequossette Lodge of Watertown, which he had attended, the Worshipful Master presented to Meridian Lodge, through him, a decanter which it is believed was at one time the property of this Lodge. A vote of thanks was tendered to Pequossette Lodge for this ancient relic.

September 16, 1891.

Regular Communication and Third Annual Visitation of Right Worshipful Judge Emery Grover and suite of the Twenty-first Masonic District. The District Deputy Grand Master availed himself of the opportunity to present Worshipful Master Soule with his Past Master's Diploma. Worshipful Brother Soule returned his thanks to the Right Worshipful Brother for the kind words he was pleased to express in presenting to him in so public a manner his Past Master's Diploma.

A Banquet, participated in by all the brethren, closed the exercises of the evening.

October 14, 1891.

Annual Communication of the Lodge, and election of Brother Elwin Charles Huntoon as Wor. Master: Total membership, 277.

November 11, 1891.

Installation of Brother Elwin C. Huntoon, Master, and other officers elect, by Worshipful Master James H. Gilligan, assisted by Worshipful Past Master Frederick Lewis as Marshal. At the close of the installation ceremony, Worshipful Master Huntoon presented to the retiring Master, Worshipful Brother Soule, an elegant Past Master's Jewel on behalf of the Lodge, and the brethren repaired to the Banquet Hall and partook of an Installation Supper; and thus was inducted into office the Junior Master of the Lodge.

January 19, 1892.

Special Communication for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Charles Dearborn Howard, who died on Saturday morning, January 16th, after a long and painful illness. By request of the Worshipful Master of Jordan Lodge of Pea-

body, Massachusetts, of which the deceased was a life member, Meridian Lodge took charge of the funeral; a delegation being present from the abovenamed Lodge consisting of the Worshipful Master Elmer M. Poor, and Brothers E. M. Myers, J. A. Trask, and W. B. Richardson.

Owing to a severe storm the last rites of the fraternity were performed in the Congregational Church: Worshipful Elwin C. Huntoon presiding, assisted by Rev. Bro. Charles W. Blackett as Chaplain. Escort duty was performed by Natick Commandery Knights Templar, and by Parker Royal Arch Chapter, to both of which organizations Brother Howard belonged.

January 23, 1892.

Brother Joseph W. Paige, an initiate of Meridian Lodge of September 8th, 1861, died today after a few months' illness. Brother Paige was born in Pomfret, Vermont, August 16th, 1833, and was one of our oldest and most ardent Masons, becoming a member of the Lodge September 14th, 1864. He was exalted in Parker Royal Arch Chapter June 15th, 1888. He became a resident of Medfield in 1859, where he resided until his death.

He was an enthusiastic horticulturist and pomologist, and devoted his time in the summer months to that business; and in the winter months he was employed by the Excelsior Straw-works of Medfield, Massachusetts.

He was buried with Masonic honors January 26th by Meridian Lodge: Worshipful Elwin C. Huntoon presiding, and Worshipful Charles C. Henry assisting as Chaplain. "The silver cord is loosed, and the golden bowl is broken, and his spirit has returned to God who gave it."

February 10, 1892.

Regular Communication, at which the following vote of thanks was adopted and ordered to be engrossed, signed by the Worshipful Master and Wardens, attested by the Secretary under seal of the Lodge, and transmitted to our brother:

MASONIC HALL, Natick, Mass.,)
Feb. 10, 1892.)

Meridian Lodge A. F. and A. M., in Regular Communication this evening, voted unanimously to extend to our brother and distinguished citizen, Hon. Edwin Vinal Mitchell, our sincere thanks and appreciation of the generous hospitality and fraternal courtesies extended to the members of Meridian Lodge on the sad occasion of the funeral of our late Brother Joseph W. Paige, at Medfield, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, January 26th, 1892.

May 11, 1892.

Voted, That a Committee of Five be appointed by the Worshipful Master to suggest a method to raise a suitable fund for the purpose of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the Lodge in 1897, and report at the next regular meeting.

The Worshipful Master appointed Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason, Worshipful Silas H. Bent, Worshipful Frederick Lewis, Henry C. Mulligan, and Wilmot W. Mitchell.

July 6, 1892.

Regular Communication, at which Committee on Anniversary Fund report several methods of raising the same. The report was accepted, and the following was adopted :

That a Committee of Twenty-five be appointed by the Worshipful Master to raise a fund for the refurnishing of the Lodge-rooms, and the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the institution of the Lodge : The Committee to have full powers to act and fill all vacancies which may arise.

—And the Worshipful Master appointed the following named brethren to constitute said Committee :

Wor. Silas H. Bent,	Irving E. Glidden	George A. Reed,
Warren A. Bird,	Wor. Charles C. Henry,	S. Augustus Sweetland,
Myron W. Bent,	Fred. O. Johnson,	Wor. Chester F. Soule,
Patrick H. Cooney,	Edwin J. Keyon,	R. Kinsman Sawyer,
Charles W. Dean,	Wor. Frederick Lewis,	Wor. Geo. J. Townsend,
Edgar S. Dodge, M. D.,	Henry C. Mulligan,	M. D.,

James Downs,	Edwin V. Mitchell,	Charles H. Whitcomb,
Wor. D. H. L. Gleason,	Wilmot W. Mitchell,	Hon. Charles Q. Tirrell,
Wor. James H. Gilligan,	Charles A. Pooke,	

Subsequently, at a meeting of the above Committee of Twenty-five, Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason was chosen Chairman; Worshipful Charles C. Henry Secretary; and Brother Charles H. Whitcomb as Treasurer.

August 3, 1892.

Regular Communication, and third degree conferred on three candidates; one of whom—Brother Alpheus O. Grant of Medfield—tendered to the Lodge a complimentary dinner, and through the Worshipful Master invited all the brethren present to the Banquet Hall, where they partook of a sumptuous feast, which was evidently enjoyed by all. A pleasant incident of the evening also was the presentation by Brother George A. Reed to the Secretary, on behalf of his friends, of a Knights Templar Watchguard Charm, to wear especially on his tour to Denver, Colorado, for which city he was to depart on the morrow to attend the Twenty-fifth Triennial Conclave of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

Worshipful Brother Henry expressed his sincere appreciation and thanks for the kindly feeling of the brethren toward him as expressed in the gift, which he should always cherish with the pleasant memories of this evening.

September 7, 1892.

Regular Communication, and first official visit of Right Wor. Lewis M. Palmer, M. D., District Deputy Grand Master for the Twenty-first Masonic District.

At the conclusion of the work of the Master Mason's degree the District Deputy was pleased to present Worshipful Master Elwin C. Huntoon with a Past Master's Diploma on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Samuel Wells.

October 1, 1892.

Here end the Chronicles of Meridian Lodge; and as the writer lays aside the pen, he cherishes the hope that in the future gen-

erations there will be one raised up more worthy to take up the work where we have laid it down.

Meridian Lodge—may her sun of glory never set, but always shine at its Meridian height!



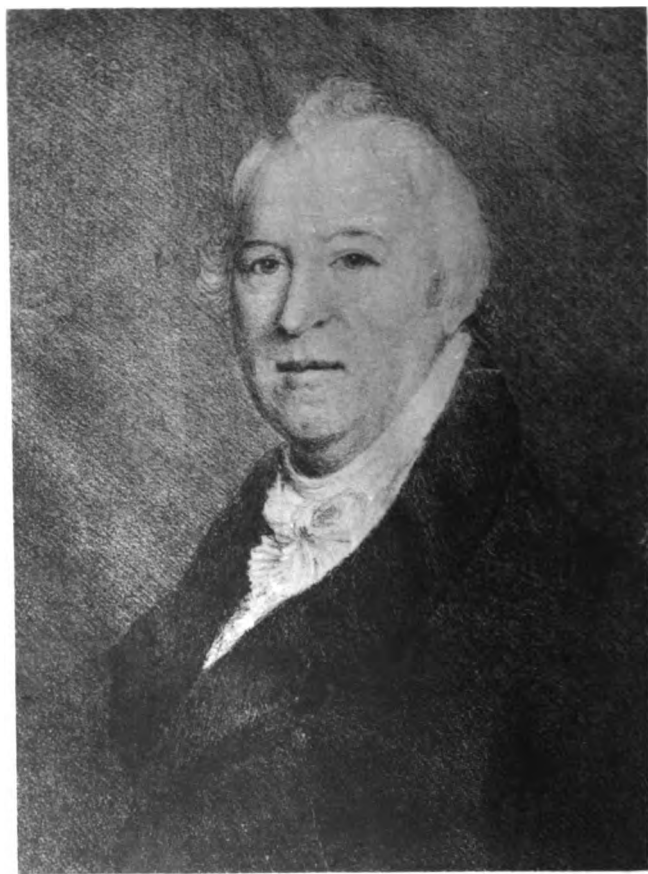
BIOGRAPHIES

OF

PAST MASTERS OF MERIDIAN LODGE,

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

BY JOHN ROCKWOOD, PAST SECRETARY.



GEN. WILLIAM HULL.

GENERAL WILLIAM HULL,

FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER—1797.

THIS Revolutionary soldier and first Master of Meridian Lodge was born at Derby, Connecticut, June 24th, 1753. He graduated at Yale in 1772; then studied divinity for one year. He then attended Litchfield Law School, and was admitted to the bar in 1775.

The Revolution breaking out, he entered the patriot army as Captain and served throughout the war with distinction, rising to the rank of Colonel.

He had at this time become interested in Masonry, and had attained to some proficiency in its work (having received the degrees in some military Lodge); for a petition for a traveling Lodge, named Washington Lodge, was granted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1779, with General John Patterson as Master, Colonel Benjamin Tupper as Senior Warden, and Major William Hull as Junior Warden; and on June 24th of the same year, on the occasion of the celebration of Saint John's Day at West Point, an address was delivered by Brother William Hull, at which time General George Washington and family were among those present.

Returning to Newton, Massachusetts, after the war, he became a very successful lawyer; and in 1781 married Sarah, a daughter of Judge Fuller of that town.

In "Shay's Insurrection" in 1786, Brother Hull was a Major-General of militia; in 1789 was a Captain in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and was also a distinguished member of the "Order of the Cincinnati," (composed of officers of

the Revolution, and founded, it is said, by General Knox. Of this society General George Washington was President till the time of his death). These various affiliations are positive proof of the esteem in which our brother was held.

He was also for a series of years a leading member of the Massachusetts House and Senate; became a "Judge of Common Pleas;" and in the year 1793 was made Commissioner to treat with the Indians of Upper Canada.

On December 11th, 1797, Meridian Lodge received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; its formal institution taking place on Wednesday, September 5th, 1798. In an account of the ceremonies attending this event, published in the COLUMBIAN SENTINEL on Wednesday, September 12th, 1798, the name of William Hull appears as Worshipful Master; thus giving authenticity to the claim that he was the first to hold that office in Meridian Lodge. It is much to be regretted that the records of the society are lost, as no doubt a more satisfactory account of this, as of other interesting events in the early history of our organization, would there be found recorded.

In 1805 Brother Hull was appointed by President Thomas Jefferson as the first Governor of the Territory of Michigan; and thither he moved with his family, remaining in this office, according to some authorities [see Johnson's Encyclopædia, from which much of this sketch is drawn], until 1814.

On the breaking out of the war with England in 1812, he became Brigadier General in command of the "Army of the North-west," and in this capacity he surrendered Detroit to the British General, Brock, on the 16th of August, 1812, for which action he was court-martialed, and in 1814 sentenced to be shot for cowardice; but in consideration of his age and former bravery, and his service in the Revolution, he was recommended to, and received pardon; when he once more returned to Newton and passed the remainder of his days in retirement.

In 1824 he published "The Campaign of the North-west Army," and a series of letters in vindication of his conduct; which development of facts, in connection with other circumstances attending his court-martial, caused a change in public opinion, tending to remove the cloud from his reputation, and in a great

measure to restore his former fame, so that he was quite generally accounted a victim to political intrigue. He died at Newton, Massachusetts, at the ripe age of seventy-two years.

The life of Worshipful Brother William Hull, by Maria Campbell and Rev. James Freeman Clarke, his grandson, is regarded as a full vindication of his character.

[Mr. Samuel C. Clarke, brother of James Freeman Clarke, writes me that Mrs. Maria Campbell, was the daughter of General Hull.—S. H. A.]



PETER LYON.

PETER LYON,

MASTER IN EARLY HISTORY OF THE LODGE.

As THE biographer of those who have passed away proceeds with his work, an ever increasing regret possesses him that the records of those prominent in Masonic life have received so little attention, and have been so illy preserved; and the lesson of the futility of human ambition is forced upon his attention as he notes how quickly the ripples on life's ocean, where went down some splendid human bark freighted with intellectuality subside into tranquillity, or is lost in the turmoil of the oncoming waves, leaving only the scattering fragments of wreckage along the shore to tell the story of what has transpired.

Upright citizen, public officer, and zealous Mason though he was, the story of our Past Master.—

PETER LYON,

Is yet regretably meagre in its details. He was born at Milton, Massachusetts, November 11th, 1776, at the time when the colonies had just entered upon the struggle that made them a free and independent nation; and it is gratifying to know that he was the son of a patriot soldier,—his father, Jacob Lyon, being one of those who risked their lives to establish the liberties which we now enjoy. He was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, October 12th, 1754, and died at Needham, Massachusetts, in 1828. His wife, Jerusha Tucker, the mother of Peter Lyon, being a native of Milton, Massachusetts.

Young Peter was educated in the schools of Milton, and as he grew older, engaged in the trade of papermaking.

He was twice married, selecting for his first companion Alice Spring of Weston, Massachusetts; and after her demise, marrying Charlotte Seaverns, of the same town.

The greater part of his active life was spent in that part of Needham now known as Wellesley Hills, where at the age of forty-one years he held the office of Selectman, serving on the "Board" in 1817, 1820, 1823, 1835, 1826, and 1834; which sufficiently indicates his popularity, and justifies the statement which tradition makes of him, that "He was a man of wide influence and strict integrity." He was also a large holder of real estate in Needham, and was an earnest and zealous Mason.

The exact date at which he attained to the dignity of Master of Meridian Lodge is lost to us; but from the old Treasurer's Book, which happily escaped the flames that licked up so much that was valuable in the history of our Lodge, we learn that February 28th, 1817, it was voted to pay Peter Lyon eleven dollars and eighty cents for the purchase of a Past Master's Jewel for himself, and as a balance in settlement of account. Later in life he resided in Chaplain, a small town in Windham County Connecticut, where he ended his days November 18th, 1863, at the age of eighty-seven years.

The record of his long life is short and broken; but it is long enough to tell us that in the early history of our Lodge this man, who for a time guided its counsels, was a public-spirited, upright and faithful brother; and though we might wish for a more detailed account of his labors, it contains an example that any Mason may emulate; that posterity may say of him, when'er his name is mentioned, "HE WAS A MAN AND A MASON!"



COL. CHESTER ADAMS.

COLONEL CHESTER ADAMS,

WORSHIPFUL MASTER IN EARLY HISTORY OF THE LODGE.

WORSHIPFUL Brother Chester Adams was born at Bristol, Hartford County, Connecticut, October 25th, 1785.

In 1799 he moved to Dedham, Massachusetts, and resided in that town and in Needham until 1821. He was a minute-man during the war of 1812, and was promoted from one military grade to another during the war, but was never called into active service. In 1820 he resigned his commission as Colonel of the Massachusetts Militia, and was honorably discharged.

In 1821 he located in Natick,—his residence for many years being upon Main street, and near, if not upon, the spot where Hogan's Block now stands. He soon became a prominent citizen of this town, and from time to time held nearly all the positions of trust in the gift of his fellow townsmen.

He occupied the position of Town Clerk for twenty-seven (27) years; and during that time he was never absent in a single instance from Town Meeting.

He was the Representative from Natick to the General Court of Massachusetts from 1833 to 1835, and in 1837-8; and was a member of the State Senate in 1842 and 1849.

He was Postmaster of South Natick for seven years preceding the administration of President Van Buren, by whom he was removed from office, after which he lived in retirement until his death, which occurred at Natick, Massachusetts, March 15th, 1858, at the age of seventy-two years, four months, and twenty-one days.

Brother Adams was universally respected, and was seldom mentioned except as "'Squire" Adams; his advice being often sought, and held in high repute by his neighbors and townsmen.

His Masonic record was lost at the time of the burning of the Records of the Lodge. We gather, however, from the old Treasurer's Account-book, which was saved from the flames, that he was Junior Warden of the Lodge in 1813-14; also this statement: "At a Communication of Meridian Lodge held June 21st, 1821, it was voted to pay General Charles Rice ten dollars for cash paid for a Past Master's Jewel for Brother Chester Adams."

His active Masonic life was spent previous to 1821; the Lodge being then located at Newton Lower Falls, from which place it was removed to Natick in March, 1852.

At a Regular Communication of Meridian Lodge held July 22d, 1885, it was voted to procure a crayon portrait of Worshipful Brother Adams; and on September 23d, 1885, it was formally placed on the walls of the Lodge-room, in company with the pictures of other brethren who have been distinguished characters in the history of our Lodge.



SETH DEWING.

S E T H D E W I N G ,
WORSHIPFUL MASTER IN EARLY HISTORY OF
THE LODGE.

“PRIOR to January 6th, 1883, it could have been claimed for the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts that she had one of the oldest living Masons within her jurisdiction; one concerning whom little or nothing has been said, but who nevertheless was worthy of more than a passing remark.”*

Our Worshipful Brother Seth Dewing was born in Needham, Massachusetts, September 6th, 1788; and was a direct descendant of those soberminded and earnest men who first settled Massachusetts; his ancestry being accurately traced back for six generations before him to the year 1644, when—only one year subsequent to the union of the Colonies of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, New Haven, and Connecticut, under the title of the United Colonies of New England, and but twenty-four years after the landing of the Pilgrims from the Mayflower at Plymouth—Andrew Dewing bought an estate and settled in Needham; where, up to the present time, his descendants continue to reside.

The details of the early life of Seth Dewing are obscure; but we are informed that he learned, and for a time followed, the trade of a carpenter; afterwards opening a country store in his native town. This business he finally disposed of, and entered into mercantile pursuits in the city of Boston, retaining his residence in Needham, which by a division of the town has now become Wellesley.

Our brother began his Masonic life when Peter Lyon was the Master of Meridian Lodge, which was then located at Water-

* From LIBERAL FREEMASON of January, 1883.

town, Massachusetts. He was recommended for initiation by Silas Fuller of Newton Centre, and received the First Degree of Freemasonry on the 18th of September, 1809,—only twenty-one (21) years and twelve days from the date of his birth. On the 23d of October he was made a Fellow Craft, and became a Master Mason on November 23d; having thus taken the Three Symbolic Degrees of the Order within three months after arriving at a lawful age.

In 1814 he was elected Master of Meridian Lodge, and in that capacity he served for seven years. No better evidence of his faithful devotion to the principles of our Order can be adduced, except perhaps the fact that the "Morgan persecution" through which he passed failed to move him in the slightest degree from his loyal adherence to the tenets of our ancient institution.

"Brother Dewing inherited from a virtuous ancestry an iron constitution; and throughout his long life enjoyed the blessings that flow from a healthy body. Only once (in 1866) did he feel the need of a physician sufficiently to call one until a few days before his death, when his family thought it prudent to do so."*

For many years he was a constant attendant upon church services, which practice he continued up to within a year of his death, except upon stormy days during the last year of his life.

He retained his physical energies in a remarkable degree, and was able to attend to his business matters with an unclouded mind until the last. But to him as to all men the great change came; and on Sunday morning, January 7th, 1883, without pain or struggle,—

The wheels of weary life at last stood still,

—And our venerable brother fell asleep.

Thus at an age of nearly ninety-five years passed away a Brother Mason of more than seventy-four years' experience in the mysteries of the Craft; and his brethren of Meridian Lodge, with feelings of the deepest veneration and fraternal regard, on Wednesday afternoon, January 10th, 1883, sorrowfully performed the funeral rites of the Order over his remains at Wellesley, committing "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust;" but as they

*LIBERAL FREEMASON.

deposited the lambskin and evergreen sprig of acacia in his open grave, they were reminded that "his spirit had returned to God who gave it;" and of the reward that awaits all faithful Masons in that land "whose inhabitants never grow old."



MALACHI BABCOCK.

MALACHI BABCOCK,

FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK, INSTALLED 1852, '55, '56, '57, AND AGAIN IN 1862 AND '64.

IF, like the Church of Rome, Freemasonry canonized its most venerated, faithful, and true-hearted members, no more striking exponent of its sublime principles could be selected as the patron saint of Meridian Lodge than the honest and single-hearted Mason who first presided over its counsels in Natick,—the Worshipful MALACHI BABCOCK.

Descended from the good old Puritan stock, he exemplified in his character that firmness, integrity, and loyalty to his ideals of right, truth, and duty, as well as an undeviating honesty of action in all his dealings with his fellow-men, which was all that could be expected from one of even such ancestry. These virtues also mark him in memory as a typical Mason; for his life was as upright as though regulated by the plummet, and his actions, tried by the square of virtue, were never found wanting. Strong and earnest in his faith as a Christian, he was never a bigot; and with him Freemasonry and Religion went hand in hand through the journey of this life, and together illuminated the gateway of that which is to come.

Brother Babcock was born in the quiet old town of Sherborn, Massachusetts, December 17th, 1802; his ancestors being some of its first settlers.

Among its rural scenes he received his education; at the age of twenty-five married Miss Sally Kimball of that town, and reared his family; being the father of ten children who reached the age of maturity.

He learned the trade of blacksmith ; and like the ancient Tubal-Cain, became a most expert workman, excelling in the art of tempering steel tools. His name, stamped upon one of his knives came to be regarded as a warrant of its excellence by the artisans who used them.

In the year 1857 he moved to Medfield and formed a copartnership with Henry Partridge, and engaged in the manufacture of the celebrated "Partridge Fork," and cutlery ; continuing until the dissolution of the firm in 1863. It was to his skill and workmanship while a member of this firm of Henry Partridge & Company, patentees of the "Partridge Fork," that that implement was indebted for its wonderful spring temper which made it the pioneer of the light yet strong agricultural tools of today ; a peculiarity which was the foundation of the worldwide reputation of the present American production in this line.

Our brother was of too modest and retiring a nature to become a professional politician or officeseeker ; yet he was a sincere and earnest patriot, and was always interested in questions of public policy. In early manhood he espoused the principles of the Whig party, and represented the town of his nativity in the General Court of 1854 and '55. Later he became a stanch Republican, and remained in this political faith to the end of his life.

In 1864 he removed to Natick, working at his trade of tempering knives in this town and Leominster, Massachusetts, as long as he was able to perform manual labor ; his home being in the former place till called to his Father's Home on high November 6th, 1882, at the age of nearly eighty years.

HIS RECORD AS A MASON

Was begun at the age of twenty-five, in the same year as his marriage ; for we learn from the Records of Middlesex Lodge, of Frammingham, Massachusetts, that he entered that Lodge as an Apprentice June 5th, 1827 ; was Crafted September 4th, 1827 ; and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason March 28th, 1828. He held various offices of trust in this Lodge until the year 1848, when he was elected to the office of Worshipful Master, holding this honorable position for two years.

It is to be noticed that Brother Babcock became a Mason in the same year that the "Morgan Persecution" began ; and that in spite of the calumny and obloquy that was heaped upon the Craft, he remained true to his Masonic principles.

The feeling against Masonry was particularly bitter in the little town of Sherborn, and it must have been hard for our brother to endure ; yet he stood like a rock in defense of the Order, and in 1831 was one of the first signers of the famous declaration of the Freemasons of Boston and vicinity, which was published to the world as a solemn and unequivocal denial of the allegations of the "Anti-Masonic" party, viz : "That Freemasonry was at variance with the fundamental principles of morality, and incompatible with the duty of good citizens."

All honor to one who could endure and defy persecution ; but he lived to see the principles for which he suffered grandly triumphant, and Freemasonry respected and venerated wherever known.

While living in Sherborn in 1851 Worshipful Brother Babcock was called upon to lecture and preside over a "Lodge of Instruction" which had been formed by a little band of brethren in the adjoining town of Natick ; and in 1852 so strong had become the desire to organize a regular Lodge, that a Committee was chosen, with Brother Babcock as Chairman, to obtain permission of Meridian Lodge (then located at Newton Lower Falls) to petition the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for a Dispensation for that purpose. There being little interest in Freemasonry in Newton Lower Falls at this time, at the suggestion of General Charles Rice it was concluded to endeavor to obtain a transfer of Meridian Lodge to Natick, where it was thought its field of usefulness might be widened. This endeavor was successful ; the desired dispensation was granted ; the Lodge was transferred and reorganized ; and at the first Communication following its removal, in the month of March, 1852, Brother Babcock was elected as the first Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge in Natick, remaining in office until the fall of 1853 ; being re-elected in 1855, '56 and '57, and again in 1862 and '64. This closed his active official connection with the Lodge ; though he was a constant attendant upon its meetings until prevented by the

infirmities of age; and he was often called upon, and was ever prepared, to deliver a lecture or a charge to a candidate.

As an evidence of his interest in Masonic work it is related that while living in Medfield, and at the age of fifty or more years, he often walked to Natick, a distance of nine miles, to attend the Lodge-meetings; and it is believed that some of the brethren are yet living who used at such times to furnish him transportation and company a part of the way on his return home.

About the time of the close of his term of office in 1857, his brethren were moved, as an indication of their regard and appreciation of his services, to present him with a silver water service, bearing this inscription: "Presented to Right* Worshipful Malachi Babcock by members of Meridian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Natick, Massachusetts, September 30th, 1857;" and in 1870 he was elected to honorary membership,—an honor never more worthily conferred, nor more richly merited.

Upon the celebration of his golden wedding, which occurred on Thursday, September 20th, 1877, a large number of the fraternity waited upon him to express their congratulations and regards; in fine, so warm was the friendship of his brethren that no opportunity of manifesting their feelings was ever intentionally neglected by them; and that these feelings were strongly reciprocated by Brother Babcock has been too often demonstrated to admit of doubt.

He received the degrees of Capitular Masonry in Concord Royal Arch Chapter at Framingham, Massachusetts, in 1866; was instrumental in instituting Parker Royal Arch Chapter in Natick in 1868; and was made an honorary member of this body in 1875.

He was the first Companion to receive the Order of Masonic Knighthood in Natick Commandery of Knights Templar after its institution in 1871; and of this organization, in 1880, he was also made an honorary member as token of the esteem of his fraters,—the crowning honor of his long and eventful Masonic career.

Our brother passed away from earth from heart disease about eight o'clock, November 5th, 1882. The funeral, which took

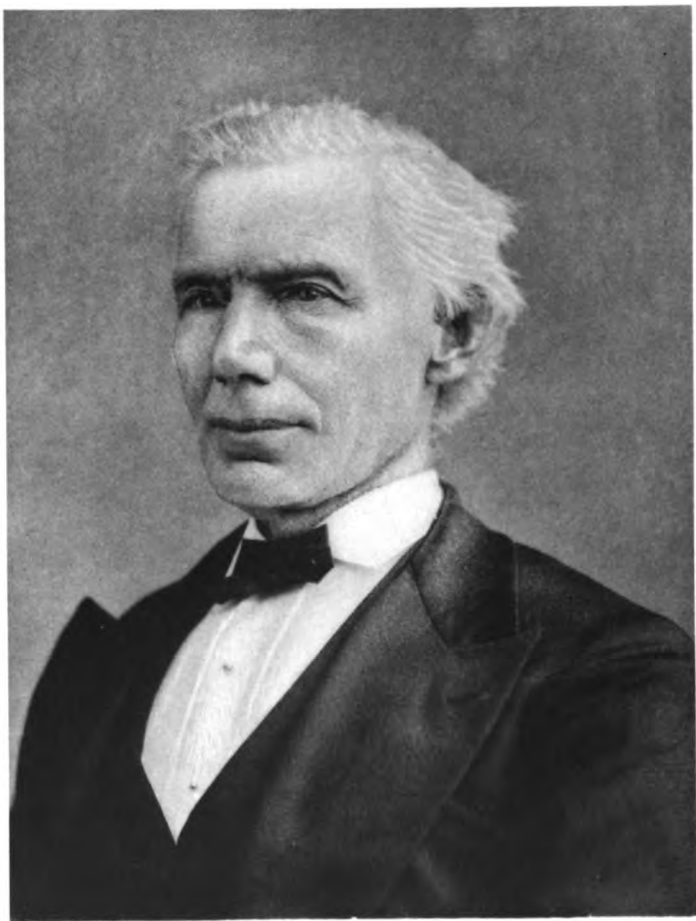
* It does not appear that he was entitled to this honor of Right Worshipful.

place on the 8th, was conducted by the Masonic Fraternity, and was one of the most solemn ever held in Natick. Meridian Lodge, escorted by Parker Royal Arch Chapter and Natick Commandery Knights Templar, proceeded to his former residence, where his remains were received in charge; and, preceded by the Natick Cornet Band to the sound of solemn dirges, they were conveyed to the Methodist Episcopal Church, where the Templar's burial service was impressively performed by Eminent Commander Elbridge F. Perry; when, after remarks by Rev. C. E. Davis, they were taken in solemn procession to Dell Park Cemetery, and there deposited in man's last resting-place, with the funeral-rites of the Order which he had so long loved, and so faithfully served.

The memory of Brother Babcock's services was not allowed to perish with his clay; for at a Regular Communication of the Lodge, January 12th, 188-, on motion of Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason, it was voted that the Worshipful Charles C. Henry should "procure a crayon portrait of our Worshipful Brother Malachi Babcock, to be placed in the Lodge-room;" and at the next regular meeting in February he delivered to the Lodge, as the result of his labors, a lifelike representation of the features once so familiar to us all. The portrait was suitably framed and hung in the East, as a fitting memorial of one so widely known and respected by the Fraternity.

Kind, affectionate, considerate, and true, Malachi Babcock has left behind him the record of a good life. It is written upon the memories of his brethren in letters more lasting than bronze; more enduring than monumental marble; where every day they may turn their eyes to read it.

Thou hast our friend, Hereafter: Thou
Shalt keep him safe until that hour
When, with God's seal on heart and brow,
We claim him in immortal power!



*Fraternally Yours
George L. Sleepers*

GEORGE LUCIAN SLEEPER,
THIRD WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF NATICK, IN-
STALLED 1858.

THE oldest living Past Master of Meridian Lodge,—

GEORGE LUCIAN SLEEPER,

Was born at Gifford, New Hampshire, April 13th, 1818. He was the eldest child of Hezekiah W. Sleeper, who was born at Hawk, New Hampshire, September 30th, 1798 ; and Ruth (Martin) Sleeper, a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, June 20th, 1794.

The father of Brother Sleeper was a farmer ; and it was upon a small farm, on the southern shore of the beautiful Lake Winnipisseogee, that he first drew breath.

In the springtime, ten years later, the family moved to Alton, New Hampshire, where the subject of this sketch remained till he was of age in 1839 ; receiving his education in the public schools of that place, and taking private instruction in the higher branches of a Mr. Tash (a once celebrated teacher) at New Durham, in the same State. He profited so well by this course of study that we find him teaching three terms of a winter school at Alton prior to attaining the age of twenty-one years. He also held commissions in the State Militia, both as Lieutenant and Captain, before he was twenty ; winning the respect and esteem of both his privates and superior officers. It would seem that a commercial career had more charms for our friend at this time than either the schoolroom or the camp ; for in the March before he became twenty-one, he purchased the stock in trade of a general country store, and continued in mercantile life until the year

1865 ; conducting, during this period, stores in Alton, Gilmanton, and Moultonboro, New Hampshire, and in Natick, Massachusetts ; besides serving ten years as a Trial Justice in the State of New Hampshire.

It was in the year 1854 that Brother Sleeper came to Natick, where he was elected to the office of Town Clerk ; serving the town in that capacity from 1862 to 1866 continuously, and receiving many compliments for the thoroughness of his work.

In 1864 he was appointed Trial Justice ; retaining that office until it was superseded by the establishment of the District Court at South Framingham in 1874.

While acting in that capacity he was given an interest in the law-firm of Bacon & Sawin : and after the death of Mr. Sawin, the junior member of the firm, he was examined and admitted to practice in all the courts of Massachusetts as attorney-at-law. He immediately formed a copartnership with the late Hon. John W. Bacon under the firm name of Bacon & Sleeper ; but Mr. Bacon soon after receiving an appointment to the bench of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, their copartnership was dissolved ; Mr. Sleeper continuing the business by himself in Natick, and also opening an office in Boston in connection with Lucius H. Wakefield, conducting business there until the disastrous fire of 1873 ; in which, having lost many of his books, he closed his office in Boston, and removing his library to Natick, he has continued to practise his profession there until the present time, excepting for four years during which he held the position of Postmaster of Natick under the administration of President Cleveland's first term. In this important position our brother succeeded in performing his duty to the entire satisfaction of the business community and of the Postoffice Department.

Brother Sleeper's Masonic record dates from 1856, in which year he was made a Master Mason in Meridian Lodge. Recognizing his ability as a scribe, his brethren elected him as Secretary in the same year ; in the year following as Junior Deacon ; and in 1858 he was installed as Worshipful Master.*

Our Brother received the Chapter degrees in Concord Royal

* Brother S. claims to have been elected in 1858.

Arch Chapter, located at Framingham, Massachusetts, in the year 1859 ; worked assiduously in establishing Parker Chapter at Natick, and contributed generously in fitting up and furnishing its first Chapter-room.

The degrees of the Temple were conferred upon him by Natick Commandery in 1878 ; showing that from the time of his initiation into the Order, he has been an active and zealous Mason until of late years, when business engagements, coupled with the indisposition of gathering years, have combined to rob him and his brethren of his active participation in many of the enjoyable fraternal gatherings of the Order, as well as to deprive the Lodge of those wise counsels which are only to be obtained from brethren of the qualifications, Masonic experience, and ripe age of Worshipful Brother Sleeper ; and which inspire us at once with respect and regard, both for them and their labors.

That our venerable friend and brother may long live in peacefulness and health to enjoy the reflections consequent upon a well spent life, as well as the hope of a glorious immortality, is the earnest wish of all his Masonic brethren.



JOHN WILSON, M. D.

JOHN WILSON, M. D.,

SECOND WORSHIPFUL MASTER IN NATICK.

ALTHOUGH but a few years have passed since John Wilson, M. D., passed away from earth ; yet we are forced to write of him that —

His deeds, his thoughts, are buried with his clay.

He was the second to hold the office of Master of Meridian Lodge after its removal to Natick ; and tradition informs us that he was a well read, forceful, and intelligent man ; one whose opinions were received with respect by his cotemporaries ; a shrewd, farseeing politician, an able and ready debater, and a man of superior education ; as indeed his profession would sufficiently imply. He was one of the ablest of that circle of leading spirits with whom Henry Wilson (afterwards Vice President of the United States) used to discuss the affairs of the State and Nation in the earlier history of our town ; and without doubt was one of those whom he had in mind when he told a prominent statesman in Washington (D. C.), in substance, that he had learned as much of political science in his debates with Natick friends and mechanics as he had in the halls of Congress.

We learn that Brother Wilson was Master of the Lodge from October, 1852, to October 1853 ; and that he died September 27th, 1864 : but to this, at present, there seems little that we can add. That the record of so able a man, and a former Master of our Lodge, has been so nearly lost, is a source of great regret and disappointment ; yet it is to be hoped that the very poverty of this record may stimulate the research of the brethren that the story of so long a life, and one that must have held so many lessons for future generations may not sink into entire oblivion.



EZERIAL B. PHILLIPS.

EZEKIEL B. PHILLIPS,
FOURTH MASTER OF MERIDIAN LODGE
AT NATICK.

EZEKIEL B. PHILLIPS, the fourth Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge in Natick, was born in Exeter, Rhode Island, April 12th, 1813; his father, Joseph, and his mother, Dorcas, having been born March 18th, 1783 and August 28th, 1794, respectively.

Brother Phillips was a graduate of Wilbraham Academy in 1838; and in 1839 he was married, and went to that part of Natick, Massachusetts, known as Felchville, where he began the serious part of life by working at the shoe-trade in the shop of Isaac Felch, Sr., whose partner he subsequently became, remaining a member of the firm for several years.

In 1852 he moved to Natick proper, and engaged in the manufacture of shoes upon his own account, conducting what for those days was quite a large business; his factory being on Walnut street, if the memory of the writer serves him rightly, and his residence on the corner now occupied by "Hogan's Block," on Main street.

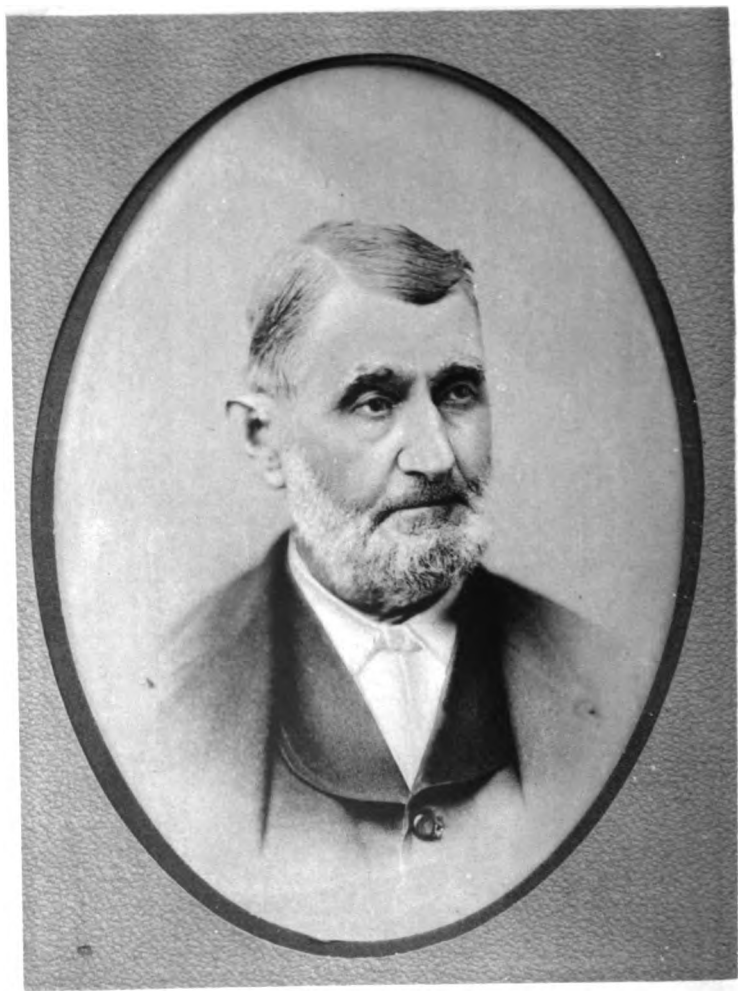
In 1864 he left Natick for Chicago, Illinois, engaging in business with "Ball & Little" in an agricultural warehouse; but removing to Kansas in 1868 to conduct a shoe-store in company with a Mr. Saunders. This business he relinquished, and returned to Chicago in 1870. The last few years of his life, however, were spent in Elgin, Illinois, where his widow and youngest child still reside.

Of his Masonic history little is known; but we learn that he was installed Master of our Lodge in 1860, and was demitted from it in 1865. The unfortunate loss of his record not only shows the

fleeting nature of human impressions and remembrances, but also serves to emphasize most strongly the duty devolving on Masons of placing the virtues of their brethren upon permanent record.

Brother Phillips passed from his home in Elgin, Illinois, to that to which our steps are all hastening on November 10th, 1887, at the advanced age of seventy-four years and nearly seven months.

He is said to have been a man of business ability, and strong individuality of character; and for these qualities, and for the high position once held by him in our beloved Order, his memory should be preserved with fraternal respect and honor.



ALVIN FULLER.

ALVIN FULLER,

FIFTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER IN NATICK.

WORSHIPFUL ALVIN FULLER, the successor of E. B. Phillips as Master of Meridian Lodge, was born in Needham, Massachusetts, in the year 1814, and was a man of much firmness of character.

For the most part his life was spent in Natick, where he followed the occupation of shoemaking, though at times he was engaged in farming; and was for a season, in the later portion of his stay in this town, employed by the Boston and Albany Railroad Corporation.

He was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason in May, 1852; passed to the degree of Fellow Craft in June, and was raised to the degree of Master Mason in July of the same year, being installed Senior Warden in 1860, and Master in 1861.

The record of his administration has been lost; and deplorable disagreements with some of his associates made him a stranger in the Lodge-room for some years, though he always retained his belief in the principles of Freemasonry.

In the year 1883, at the age of sixty-nine years, he emigrated to the State of California, taking up his abode in or near the city of Los Angeles, and engaging in the business of farming; previously to which, he visited the Lodge and renewed his cordiality with it and its members.

He died peacefully at his residence on Pico Hights, Los Angeles, California, November 9th, 1885, at the age of seventy-one years, and was buried within sight of his home, in Rosedale Cemetery.

Brother Fuller was married early in life, but died childless;

his wife following him on his long journey in the year 1892, having been for some years previously much broken in mind ; which circumstance, coupled with the loss of our records, will account for the regrettable brevity of this account of his long and presumably useful life.



JAMES H. PARKER.

JAMES HENRY PARKER,
SIXTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF NATICK,
INSTALLED 1863, '65, '66, '67, AND '68—
FIVE YEARS.

NATIVE earnestness and force of character are probably nowhere sooner perceived, and their usefulness more fully appreciated than in the Masonic Society. The subject of this memorial,—

JAMES HENRY PARKER,

Possessed these qualities in a marked degree; and it is in these characteristics that his life furnishes an example worthy of emulation

This Worshipful Brother was the son of John and Mary (Lawrence) Parker; and was born in the town of Cohasset, Massachusetts, December 3d, 1834. He was educated in the common school of that town, where he also imbibed with the salt Atlantic breezes, and from contact with the hardy mariners of that sea-coast town, the taste for manly sports which afterward made him locally noted as an amateur athlete of no mean ability.

He early developed an unusual talent for mechanics, and soon became a machinist of acknowledged skill. This ability led him to go to Natick in 1857; in which town the adoption of the wax-thread sewing-machines in the boot and shoe business was revolutionizing the old methods in manufacturing, offering to him a field of labor in which he soon showed himself a master.

He established himself in business; and in the management, manufacture, and sale of boot and shoe machinery the larger part of his life was spent,—his home for the most part being in Natick; although he was for short terms engaged as a sugar-

planter in Louisiana, and as a hotel-keeper in Natick and elsewhere.

His love for active life led him in 1858 to join the "Natick Guards," a company of the State Militia, and subsequently the "National Lancers" of the First Battalion of Massachusetts Cavalry, of which he became Sergeant. He also joined the Natick Fire Department,—being an active member of Victor No. 1, for several years.

It was however as a Mason that he attained to the greatest distinction. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Meridian Lodge, Natick, Massachusetts, in the year 1861.* Bringing to his Masonic work a ready appreciation, and a retentive memory, a generous and emulative spirit, with the needs of the Lodge to spur him on, and by the invaluable aid of that venerable Patriarch of Freemasonry, the Worshipful Malachi Babcock, he was soon placed in the front rank of brilliant young Masons, which caused his brethren to elect him Master of our Lodge in 1863, '65, '66, '67, and '68,—a period of five years; during which time he became widely known for his accurate and efficient work, and fairly started Meridian Lodge upon that career of prosperity which under the watchful care of his eminent successors has culminated in her reaching the proud position which she now occupies among the Masonic bodies of this grand jurisdiction, and which is the pride and honor of all her members.

Brother Parker received the degrees of Capitular Masonry in Concord Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Framingham, Massachusetts, in —; † and under a Dispensation from the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, in 1868, he, in connection with several other brethren, instituted a Chapter in Natick which was named Parker Royal Arch Chapter, in his honor; and as a recognition of his services to the Craft, he was made its first Most Excellent High Priest,—a position which he filled with honor and credit.

The degrees of Templar Masonry were conferred upon him in Milford Commandery in the year 1869. In 1871, with the aid of

* Another informant says 1862.

† One authority says he took the Royal Arch degree December 27th, 1865: another says in 1867 [see Memorial Page in Parker Royal Arch Chapter].

his fraters, he founded Natick Commandery, and becoming its Eminent Commander, he served with zeal and unusual ability, —imparting to it, it is said, the impetus which has contributed so largely to its present success.

Notwithstanding the vigorous promise of his early manhood, he was assailed by pulmonary hemorrhage about a year previous to his death, and soon after an unusually violent attack, which occurred at Milford, Massachusetts, his spirit passed the portal of death Tuesday, March 11th, 1885, when he was raised, we hope, to the Celestial Lodge above, where in Justice and Mercy the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

For the first time in the history of our Lodge a funeral service was conducted in its Masonic home ;—a service so fitting and solemn that its appropriateness and beauty were impressed upon all present, but more especially upon members of the fraternity.

The mortal remains of Bro. Parker were received at the Boston and Albany Depot at Natick, Thursday, March 13th, 1885, by Meridian Lodge, under escort of Parker Royal Arch Chapter and Natick Commandery of Knights Templar,—Milford Commandery acting as a guard of honor. Through various streets the procession passed to Masonic Hall, where, in the centre, upon a catafalque built to receive it, was placed the casket which contained the earthly tenement of our departed brother, borne thither by the fraternal hands of Worshipful Brothers Daniel H. L. Gleason, Silas H. Bent, and Brothers John M. Seaward, I. N. Hill, R. B. Wight, and F. Z. Jenks. About and upon the casket loving friends had placed floral emblems appropriate to the various organizations with which he had been affiliated, and with whose members he had been associated in the days of his vigor and health. The Hall was decorated with lilies, trailing vines and ferns, telling with mute eloquence the story of Masonic grief and remembrance.

The services were opened by singing, followed by an invocation by Rev. Brother J. P. Sheafe, after which Worshipful Frederick Lewis introduced, Worshipful Brother Henry Gage Wood, who delivered an eloquent eulogy upon our departed brother, embodying much of the material of which this sketch is composed, and full of true Masonic feeling. No better summing up

of the nature and disposition of Brother Parker can be given than in the words of Worshipful Brother Wood, who said of him : "He was a man long to be remembered, and not easily forgotten. He possessed excellent qualities of mind, a warm and generous heart, a bright and sunny disposition, and a kind and sympathetic nature ; all of which endeared him to his many friends, and a large circle of acquaintances. In adversity the sorrowing ever found him kind, sympathetic and charitable. These are a part of the many good qualities of our late brother. His faults—for faults he must have had, for he was human ; and to be human is to err ; but to forgive is divine. We only wish to remember our friends by their good qualities and good deeds. Their errors we must forgive, and cover with the broad mantle of charity. Here before us lies all that is mortal of our departed brother. He was born as you were born : he once lived as you now live ; but the silver cord is now loosed, and the golden bowl broken ; and we trust that his spirit has returned unto God who gave it."

Following the eulogy came the usual burial service of Masonry ; when another hymn by the quartette closed the services. The remains were allowed to lie in state until two o'clock, P. M., when, accompanied by a delegation from the Blue Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery, they were taken to Cohasset, and finally deposited near the place of his birth.

Thus the mortal form of our brother was hidden from earthly view ; but the teachings of Masonry to which he gave voice are engraved upon faithful breasts, and will remain a sweet remembrance of his skill as a Mason, till time with them shall be no more.



HENRY C. BURNHAM.

HENRY C. BURNHAM,

SEVENTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK,
INSTALLED 1869, '70, AND '71.

HENRY C. BURNHAM, the son of Josiah and Martha (Claffin) Burnham, was the successor of Worshipful James H. Parker as Master of Meridian Lodge. He began life in Ashland, Massachusetts, July 10th, 1830, in the old homestead of the family, which had been owned and occupied by his father and grandfather before him; the town of Ashland having originally been a part of Hopkinton.

He received his education in the common schools of his native town, laboring upon the farm betimes, as his forefathers had done, and true to his ideas of duty, remaining at home with his parents until his majority, there laying the foundation of that noble simplicity and honesty of purpose which were his marked characteristics throughout his after life.

At the age of twenty-one he entered the service of the Boston and Albany Railroad Corporation (then the Boston and Worcester), in the "Road Department," where his faithfulness and skill were soon recognized, and he was located at Natick as section-master, having in charge that portion of the track between South Framingham and Wellesley; and upon this section he labored until the time of his death. He was a thorough and careful workman; and to say that Henry C. Burnham had charge of a certain section of railroad was a sufficient guarantee of its condition and safety.

On the 4th of December 1854, at the age of twenty-four years, he was united in marriage to Miss Elvira Breck, who died July 19th, 1858; and on October 10th, 1860, he contracted a second

union with Miss Mary E. Kingsbury, who died January 24th, 1876, surviving him less than four years, and leaving one son and two daughters, all of whom are still living.

Brother Burnham was initiated in Meridian Lodge February 17th, 1864; passed March 30th, and was raised April 20th,—becoming a member of the Lodge on the 18th of May 1864.

In the autumn of the same year, he was installed Junior Deacon; in 1865, Junior Warden; in 1866, '67, and '68, Senior Warden,—becoming Worshipful Master in 1869. He was re-elected to this office in 1870, and again in 1871, and was the incumbent at the time of his death, which occurred less than one month previous to the expiration of his third term.

He was a charter member of Parker Royal Arch Chapter, and by appointment its first Excellent King. As will be noticed, Bro. Burnham's promotion in office was regular and rapid,—due to his conscientious discharge of his every duty—his single-hearted devotion to the Order—his honesty of purpose, integrity of character, and the good fellowship which marked his intercourse with his brethren at all times; and when he passed away on the third day of September, 1872, the members of the Lodge felt that they had indeed lost a friend and a brother.

He was followed to his last resting-place by a deeper feeling of grief than it is the lot of most men to excite; and to those who were wont to feel the fraternal grip of his hand, and who knew him for the true-hearted Mason that he was, the memory of his uneventful life comes as one of those that seem to make life the sweeter, and serves to bind yet more closely the ties of the Order that makes such acquaintances and such memories possible.



WILLIAM H. WRIGHT.

WILLIAM HILMAN WRIGHT,
EIGHTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK,
INSTALLED 1872 AND '73.

THE Masonic Fraternity numbers among its members many men of ability, integrity, and charity, as well as many more who by their ardent and sympathetic natures make friends of all with whom they come in contact; but it is rare indeed when we find all these qualities united in one individual. Meridian Lodge is most fortunate in numbering among its Past Masters a man of this character in the person of William Hilman Wright; and when he fell, suddenly stricken by the shaft of death, there passed away from earth to heaven one of the choicest spirits that has ever occupied the responsible position of Master of that Lodge.

The house in which our Worshipful Brother was born stood on the line which separates the town of Pepperell, Massachusetts, from Hollis, New Hampshire, and in that part of the building which was in the latter town his eyes first opened on the 6th day of March, 1831.

He was educated in the common school, and in Pepperell Academy, and must have been a close and diligent student; for he began his business career at the early age of fourteen years by entering the employ of one John Loring, who kept a general merchandize store, such as are common throughout the rural districts of New England, and we do not learn that he ever attended school afterward. Six years in this situation apparently only whetted his commercial appetite; for at the age of twenty he went to Boston, Massachusetts, and entered the employ of Chandler & Company, dealers in dry goods, remaining with this firm about four years, when his desire to do business for himself

prompted him to go to Natick,* and in company with Samuel Walcott, to open a general merchandize store in that place under the style of William H. Wright & Company. This firm continued in business until 1861, when their store and stock was consumed by the disastrous fire which visited that place so severely.

On September 15th, 1858, he was married to Lucinda Shattuck, who survives him, but who had been an invalid for some years previous to his death; and his loving care and watchful tenderness as a husband evinced one of the sweetest and strongest points in his character, in praise of which no language can be considered as flattery.

After the fire Brother Wright accepted a position in the Pay Department of the United States, as Clerk to Paymaster Edward Walcott, a brother of his former partner, retaining that important trust until the close of the War of the Rebellion, when he returned to Natick.

His next business venture of importance was in 1867, in the formation of a partnership with Charles Bird and A. J. Moody, for the manufacture of confectionery at No. 75 Court street, Boston, under the style of Bird, Wright & Company. About a year later Mr. Bird retired from the firm, and its name was changed to that of Wright & Moody; who, finding that their business was outgrowing their quarters, moved to more commodious ones on Cornhill. These, in turn became too small, and in 1883 they again moved; this time to a splendid new block on Columbus Avenue, which had been fitted up expressly for their business, and which they occupied at the time of Brother Wright's death; he being suddenly summoned while attending to his usual avocations at Boston, Massachusetts, December 16th, 1889, aged fifty-eight years, nine months, and ten days.

Until within a few years Brother Wright had resided on West Central street in Natick, but was a resident of Ashland, Massachusetts, at the time he was called home.

It was in the nature of things that a man of the stamp of William H. Wright should knock at the doors of Freemasonry, and that they were opened to him on May 1st, 1867, on which date

* South Natick?

he was initiated an Entered Apprentice. He was "Crafted" on May 15th, 1867, and received the Master Mason's degree on June 12th of the same year. That he lent an attentive ear to the teachings of the Order is attested by the fact that on October 5th, 1870—little more than three years after his admission to the Order—he was elected to the office of Junior Warden; the following year to that of Senior Warden; and on October 16th, 1872, to the highest position in the gift of the Lodge, which he held with dignity and honor for a period of two years; his record being of the highest character.

It was during his second year of service as Master (January, 1874) that the fire occurred which destroyed the Hall of the Lodge, and caused it to meet first at the house of Brother C. W. Gleason, and later at Grand Army Hall. This misfortune rendered the duties of Brother Wright extremely difficult; especially as he was chosen Chairman of the Building Committee; and it is largely due to his good judgment in this capacity that the present elegant quarters of the Lodge were secured to it for a term of years at the moderate rental now paid.

He also served the Lodge for many years as a "Trustee of the Charity Fund;" an office which he held at the time of his death.

After his retirement from the Chair, our brother was tendered the office of District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourth Masonic District of Massachusetts, by Most Worshipful Grand Master Charles A. Welch,—a high compliment to his ability and Masonic attainments. But on account of his failing health, and the pressing demands of business, he felt obliged to decline the honor.

Worshipful Brother Wright became a member of Parker Royal Arch Chapter in 1868,—the same year in which it was instituted,—receiving the Mark Master's degree March 31st; Past Master, April 6th; Most Excellent Master April 14th; and the Royal Arch degree June 30th.

The following year he took the degrees of the Temple in Milford Commandery Knights Templar, receiving the Order of the Red Cross October 25th 1869; the degree of Knight Templar November 8th; and the Order of Malta March 14th, 1870. He was

one of the signers of the petition for granting a Charter for a Commandery of Knights Templar in Natick, which was secured April 12th, 1871,—he being a charter member and its first Generalissimo. In the month of October, 1874, he was elected Eminent Commander of Natick Commandery, was duly installed November 2d, and continued to serve in that capacity for four years. It was said that “he was the life and main stay of both these latter named organizations until they were placed upon a firm financial and numerical footing;” and it is also recorded that his fraters of the Temple presented him with a Past Commander’s Jewel, which at that time was one of the most elegant in the State, as a token of their appreciation of his efforts and services.

His Masonic principles seemed sacred to him; and to say that he practised them in his daily life, is to say in truth that he was a faithful, upright, honorable, and patriotic citizen; a sympathetic and charitable brother; and—

“An honest man—the noblest work of God!”

In his charities, which were numerous, he was generous, but unostentatious; for many a brother has received fraternal assistance and favors from him, not knowing to this day to whom he was indebted for the kindness.

The needs of the Lodge he considered as his own; and in the furtherance of her interests his money, as well as his time and influence, were given;—not grudgingly, but freely and cheerfully, as became a Free and Accepted Mason. As brethren who knew and loved him well, we garland the flowers of our affectionate remembrance about his memory; and as Masons we honor him—dead—as in life he honored us and that grand and venerable Institution which he loved and served so faithfully, and which has done so much for the elevation and happiness of the human race.



MAJ. DANIEL HENRY LAWRENCE GLEASON,

NINTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF NATICK, IN-
STALLED 1874.

FROM the earliest days of the history of our Order to the time of that Grand Master of Masons in the United States, and Father of is Country, George Washington, our brethren have been identified both as soldiers and leaders in every cause looking toward the freedom and advancement of our race. Nor in these later days has the patriotism of Masons been lost ; for among the many thousands of gallant Masonic defenders of our country's flag in the War of the Rebellion we are proud to number an eminent Mason and Past Master of Meridian Lodge, Major Daniel Henry Lawrence Gleason.

Our brother was born in Langdon, New Hampshire, March 23d, 1841, where his father was born before him, January 23d, 1801. His mother was also a native of New Hampshire, having been born in Westmoreland March 31st, 1799.

Brother Gleason began his education in the public schools, and continued it by two terms in the High School at Holden, Massachusetts. He early showed evidence that he possessed a restless and adventurous disposition, that was averse to confinement in a country town ; for he left home at the age of only fifteen years to seek his fortune.

At the age of seventeen he shipped on board a schooner of the mackerel fleet, bound for the Bay of Saint Lawrence, and followed the mackerel fishing business during its season in the years of 1858, '59, and '60. We may surmise that the poetry of—

“A life on the ocean wave”

—Had by this time become a stern reality to our young adven-

turer ; for in 1861, at the age of twenty years, he had decided to remain upon land and at home ; but the outbreak of the "Great Rebellion" which occurred in this year fired his patriotic ardor, and on the second of September, 1861, he enlisted as a "private" in Company G, First Regiment Massachusetts Cavalry, "For three years, or during the war."

His promotion was rapid : First as Duty Sergeant ; then Commissary Sergeant of Company G ; and less than two months' service saw him First Sergeant to Company F, to which he was transferred in November, 1861.

Brother Gleason took another step upward July 27th, 1862, when he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant. He was again honored by promotion to First Lieutenant February 1st, 1863, and reached the rank of Captain January 27th, 1864.

It is well known that it is not in the greatest battles that the most desperate fighting is done, nor that furnish the most conspicuous examples of personal bravery. While holding the rank of Lieutenant, our brother was the hero of a charge that proves the truth of the above observation, and deserves to be written upon the pages of history as one of the most gallant actions of the war ; albeit the affair is recorded as "only a skirmish."

The points of the story are drawn from the private diary of a participant in the action, and briefly told are as follows :

Brother Gleason, in command of thirty men, was on picket June 3d, 1863, at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, near a ford of the Hedgman River, when his videttes gave him notice that the ford was being crossed by two full squadrons of Rebel Cavalry, consisting of four hundred men. He ordered his skirmishers, under command of a Lieutenant, to hold them in check ; or if forced to retire, to do so fighting. This they were forced to do, and slowly fell back on their twenty comrades, who were held in reserve near the top of a hill, in a forest path or road which was heavily wooded on both sides, down which one squadron of the Rebels charged furiously, yelling like fiends.

Brother Gleason's command was concealed from view by the forest trees and the winding road, which at this place was like the letter "S," and were slowly retiring. Finding that the enemy

were close upon him, he drew sabre, wheeled his little troop, and charged this vastly superior force at the head of his men. As the column in Union Blue burst around the bend and dashed full upon the charging squadrons, the "Rebel yell" died upon their lips: a mortal surprise came into their eyes which changed to terror, and they made frantic efforts to turn and get away. All this, however, did not prevent them from opening a hot but ill-directed fire from pistols and carbines. With a stroke of his sabre Brother Gleason cut down the Lieutenant who was leading the enemy, at the same time extending his verbal compliments in terse but expressive "Army English," receiving in return a fearful blow upon the head from a carbine in the hands of a Rebel trooper, who stood up in his stirrups to deliver it; while another gave him a cut with a sabre upon the right side of his head, inflicting a large gash four and a half inches in length, cutting through the outer skull-bone. Though so badly wounded, our brother cut his way clear through the Rebel host, now in full rout; but upon calling upon his men to rally and cut their way back again, he found his horse unmanageable, and himself being irresistably carried towards rebeldom, in the midst of his flying enemies. Finally, assisted by a comrade who had bravely attended him, he succeeded in turning the course of his steed, and made a rush to regain his friends; which, after many narrow escapes, protected by his bloodstained face and a huge rubber coat, which hid his uniform, he and his gallant companion succeeded in doing; but only to find *them* encumbered with more prisoners than they could with safety manage, and with the second squadron advancing upon them.

At this juncture the steed of our brother stumbled upon a dead horse, throwing him from the saddle; so, giving his men final orders where to rally, and refusing to save himself upon the horse of Corporal Poole, who generously tendered it to him, he plunged into the woods and crawled away to a spring for refreshment, and where he first discovered the serious nature of his wounds. He washed them as well as he was able, and although nearly overcome by faintness from loss of blood, he managed by the exercise of great care and caution to reach a Union picket, and

was carried to camp by Adjutant H. Pelham Curtis, where he was highly complimented by Colonel Duffie, who sent him to Washington on the following day.

In this action the Rebels lost eight men who were killed or died of their wounds, and sixteen wounded. From the official report of Colonel A. H. Duffie, as published in the "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion" the following quotation is made: "I have to mention to the General commanding, the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Gleason, First Massachusetts Cavalry, who charged the enemy twice, receiving in the skirmish a severe sabre-cut on his head. The only force engaged with the enemy was the platoon mentioned, who by their gallantry obliged the enemy to recross at once."*

General A. Pleasanton, in his report, gives an account of the affair as follows: "On the 3d instant the enemy crossed some squadrons of Cavalry and two pieces of Artillery, with which they attacked our pickets, consisting of one platoon of the First Massachusetts Cavalry under Lieutenant Gleason. . . . Lieutenant Gleason charged them gallantly, repulsing them with loss, and causing them to retire across the river before the force sent to support the pickets could reach the scene of action. . . . The gallantry of Lieutenant Gleason is highly commended by the commanding officer of the brigade to which his regiment is attached."†

On May 11th, 1864, our brother took part in another engagement, and was twice wounded,—by a musket ball in his right hip, and a pistol-ball in his left knee; and was breveted Major on the field "For gallant and meritorious conduct." His wounds were of such a character that on the 16th of the following September he received an honorable discharge from the United States Army for "Wounds received in action."

Comment on such a record as this would be superfluous, and would seem to have entitled our brother to a long period of rest and refreshment; but his spirit was never made for inactivity; and in February 1865, he entered upon the duties of clerk in the

* See War of the Rebellion; Official Records, Series I, Vol. xxvii, p. 1048.

† Ibid. p. 902.

"Commissary-General of Prisoners'" office, at Washington, D. C., and was the associate, confidant, and adviser of Lewis J. Weichman, upon whose testimony Mrs. Surratt and other conspirators in the assassination of President Lincoln were brought to justice. Resigning this office, he returned to Massachusetts and to the pursuits of civil life in May, 1865, engaging in the grocery business at Dudley the same autumn.

In 1866 he entered the retail boot and shoe business at Leominster, Massachusetts; in 1867 was associated with Nathan B. Goodnow in the patent-right business in Boston, and was agent of the "American Improved Gas-light Company" in Boston in 1868. In 1869 and '70 he was a member of the wholesale and jobbing boot and shoe firm of "Kingsbury & Gleason" in Boston.

Our brother's services to his country received a slight recognition when in 1872 he was appointed "Night Inspector of Customs" at Boston, Massachusetts; and his efficiency has kept him in the employ of Government ever since; he having held the positions of "Clerk," "Assistant," "Weigher," "Temporary Inspector," and having filled the office of Boarding Officer of the Port of Boston since May 12th, 1876, excepting a part of the year 1888.

Brother Gleason became a resident of Natick in November, 1867; applied for the degrees of Freemasonry in Meridian Lodge January 27th, 1869; and was initiated as an Entered Apprentice March 3d, of the same year. He was passed to the degree of Fellow-Craft April 7th, 1869, and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason May 5th, 1869. In October of 1872 and '73 he was elected Junior Warden, and was chosen Master of the Lodge in October, 1874.

He was called to the chair at a particularly unfortunate period for himself. The fire which had destroyed our former Masonic home on the 13th of January preceding his election compelled the Lodge to meet in Grand Army Hall, which could only be had on Wednesday evenings. The work was in a state of transition, and was subjected to many corrections, making our brother's work doubly arduous, and far more practical than speculative. He began at once to introduce the corrections necessary to per-

fecting the work, receiving the instructions directly from the Grand Lecturer, and with the assistance of that accurate Masonic workman, Worshipful Silas H. Bent, communicating it to the brethren. This state of affairs made the exemplification of the ritual in its beauty next to impossible, as it rendered the regular drill, which is so essential to success in this work, totally impracticable. It is believed that he also introduced at this time in Meridian Lodge the custom of the examination of candidates in open Lodge for promotion to the succeeding degree.

The first meeting of the Lodge in its present quarters was held June 16th, 1875; the second degree being worked in the "Armory,"—the attending brethren using boards placed across nail-kegs for seats, the main hall being unfinished; but on the 16th of July the Hall which we have ever since occupied with so much pleasure, was dedicated by the Most Worshipful Grand Master and suite,—Brother Gleason in connection with Brother William H. Wright being actively interested in securing it for our use.

At the conclusion of his year of office as Worshipful Master, Brother Gleason, from purely disinterested motives, positively declined a reelection, and requested the brethren not to vote for him, as reference to the records will show; but he continued actively at work: for the following year (1876) the whole work was revised by a Committee of the Grand Lodge, and at great expense of time and labor he assiduously devoted himself to acquiring it in its perfection, and in transmitting it unimpaired to his successor in office, and to the brethren. To his labors at this time, coupled with the assistance of Brother Silas H. Bent, the perfection of the ritual as at present rendered in Meridian Lodge, may be largely attributed.

On the second of August, 1876, Brother Gleason was the recipient of a Past Master's Jewel, which his successor, Worshipful George J. Townsend, presented to him in behalf of the Lodge, in a deservedly complimentary address, in which he feelingly alluded to the services rendered himself and the Craft by our brother.

In 1877 he was appointed Marshal of the Lodge, and served in that capacity until 1880, accepting the same office again in 1890 and '91. He received the appointment of District Deputy Grand

Marshal on the suit of Right Worshipful George J. Townsend, of the Fourth Masonic District of Massachusetts, in 1878 and '79; and was Chief Marshal of the Saint John's Day Parade in 1888, as well as of the Grand Civic and Military Celebration July Fourth, 1886.

His long continued services were again recognized by his brethren February 18th, 1891, when they presented him with a beautiful Past Master's apron by the hand of Henry S. Sawyer, of Lafayette Lodge of Boston, who was initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by Brother Gleason; which presentation was supplemented, on May 20th, 1891, by an engrossed and framed testimonial of the names of the donors.

Besides his constant services to Freemasonry ever since his initiation, our brother has found time for other society work; being Past Commander of General Wadsworth Post No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic; a member of the Independent Order of Red Men; the Ancient Order of United Workmen; and the Sons and Daughters of New Hampshire. He was also a Charter member of Aurora Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star—an Order closely related to the Masonic Fraternity; was its first Worthy Patron in Natick, and was Grand Worthy Patron of Massachusetts for two years.*

It is thus seen that our brother's life has hitherto been an active as well as an adventurous one; and we trust that his time may be long, and his opportunities frequent, for the continuance of the many good works in which he is so actively interested.

* It is interesting to note that the wife of our brother has risen to eminence in this Order, having been Worthy Matron of Aurora Chapter, and Grand Matron of the State of Massachusetts.



George Jas. Townsend

GEORGE JAMES TOWNSEND, M. D.,

TENTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK, IN-
STALLED 1875 AND '76.

ON the fourteenth day of April, in the year 1823, in the city of Roxbury, Massachusetts, our Right Worshipful Brother George James Townsend, M. D., first drew breath.

His father was a Bostonian, having been born in that famed city in March of the year 1790,—his mother being a native of New York, being born on the fourth of July of the same year.

Brother Townsend was practically a Boston boy; for his early days were passed in that city, and it was there that he received that training in private schools, with two years in the "Latin School," which, coupled with his natural ability as a scholar, enabled him to enter Harvard College as a Sophomore at the age of sixteen years. Here he distinguished himself by taking the degree of A. B. with honors, and in 1846 the degrees of M. D. and A. M.

Being advised to go into the country for his health, he settled in South Natick in 1849, where he has faithfully practised his profession ever since; and it would seem that like Goldsmith's village preacher,—

He ne'er had changed, nor wished to change his place.

Certainly it is also true that—

A man he is to all the country dear;

For no physician in his vicinity enjoys a wider or more general acquaintance and professional reputation than Dr. Townsend.

That our Right Worshipful Brother has risen to eminence in his chosen profession is best evinced by the honors which have from time to time been showered upon his head by his medical

confrères,—he having been President of the Middlesex South Medical Society; a member and Trustee of the Massachusetts Medical and Benevolent Society; and in 1887 the Orator of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Meridian Lodge June 27th, 1866, by Worshipful James H. Parker, having received the first two degrees some years previously; the record of which is unfortunately lost.

In 1875 he succeeded Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason as Master of the Lodge, and was installed for his second term in 1876, serving the society with good judgment and great dignity, as becomes this important office; these qualifications doubtless leading the Most Worshipful Grand Master to appoint him as District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourth Masonic District of Massachusetts in the years 1878 and '79; thus not only bringing distinction to himself, but honor to his Lodge. His services were fully appreciated by his brethren; for on the 17th of April, 1878, they presented him with a Past Master's Jewel; and for the first time in the history of the Lodge, so far as known, the Jewel was accompanied by an engrossed testimonial, embodying the respect and esteem of the donors.

Brother Townsend was a Charter Member of Parker Chapter Royal Arch Masons in 1868; and was installed as its High Priest in 1871; remaining in that office for three consecutive years.

He was knighted in Milford Commandery Knights Templar, and in 1871 was a Charter Member of Natick Commandery, and its first Prelate; afterward holding the office of Captain-General and Generalissimo.

He further added to his Masonic knowledge by taking the degree in Cryptic Council, and remained a member thereof until it was dissolved. He is also a permanent member of the Boston Lodge of Perfection.

It is therefore plainly evident that our brother has taken great interest in the various degrees and orders of Freemasonry, since, in spite of the great pressure on time and thought incident to the life of a practising physician, he has devoted so much of both to its mysteries, study, and work.

He has now reached an age when the generality of men are willing to sit down to rest and refreshment, especially when they have reached the brow of the hill of attainment and honor; but the native energy which made him a Harvard sophomore at sixteen yet remains with him, and keeps him as actively engaged as of yore.

This short and meagre sketch is the bare outline of a long, honored, and useful life, to which, as time rolls on, we hope much more may be added, alike of professional success and gathered honors in our own beloved institution.



*Yours fraternally
Josiah H. B. [unclear]*

SILAS HUNT BENT,
ELEVENTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK,
INSTALLED 1877, '78, AND '79.

THE eleventh Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge in Natick, **SILAS HUNT BENT**, was born in the town of Framingham, Massachusetts December 15, 1836; his parents, Archibald Bent and Fanny (Hudson) Bent, both being natives of the same place,—their birthdays being December 4th, 1809, and November 4th, 1810, respectively.

Brother Bent may have inherited a love for Masonic principles, and for Meridian Lodge in particular; for we are informed that his grandfather, Micha Bent, who was born in Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1783; and was made a Mason in this Lodge when it was located in Watertown in the year 1804.

Our brother received his education in the public schools of his native town; learned the trade of carpenter, and was for some years a contractor and builder of repute; being associated in that business with H. W. Corson, and afterwards with the late George Johnston: of later years he has been connected with the boot and shoe business in various capacities.

He was an active member of the fire departments of Framingham and Natick during the palmy days of the volunteer system and "hand-tubs," doing duty in this branch of public service for a term of six years.

In 1867, while a resident of the town of Franklin, he applied to Excelsior Lodge for the degrees of Freemasonry, and was admitted as an Entered Apprentice July 1st, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft July 29th, and was raised to the degree of Master Mason August 26th, 1867. Upon the 20th of September, 1869, Brother Bent took his demit from Excelsior Lodge, and on

the 12th of January, 1870, was admitted to membership in Meridian Lodge, Natick, Massachusetts, and became its Junior Deacon on the 5th of October of the same year, filling the position for two years, when he took another step upward, rising to the office of Senior Deacon October 16th, 1872. In this position his work was so accurate as to cause much remark ; and in the performance of its duties he remained for two years, when his brethren promoted him by placing him in the Senior Warden's chair October 21st, 1874, honoring him by continuance in that office for three years ; and allowing him to have it only to elevate him to the position of Worshipful Master in the month of October, 1877.

While Senior Warden he was particularly active in connection with Worshipful Daniel H. L. Gleason in introducing and lecturing the brethren in the correct version of the revised work. A former officer says of him : "He had a natural Masonic head ; could memorize easily and never forget ; and was the most accurate worker I ever knew." The labor performed at this time in introducing the work as revised by the Grand Lodge, and of weeding out the inaccuracies and errors of the old, was no small task ; and Brother Bent should have the credit which undoubtedly was largely his due for the accurate ritualistic work of the officers who succeeded him.

In the position of Worshipful Master he greatly distinguished himself by his perfectly plain delivery of the work, his distinct enunciation, and the absolute accuracy of his wording ; for which points he received many well merited compliments, and which marked him as eminently fitted for his position ; and in it he was continued for three years, greatly to his credit and to the renown and honor of the Lodge.

The forty-fourth anniversary of our brother's birth occurred on the fifteenth of December, after he passed out of the chair ; and upon that occasion the congratulations and appreciation of his brethren were expressed to him in the presentation of a Past Master's Jewel of elegant design and workmanship ; and again upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of his marriage, January 20th, 1886, the forty brothers whom he had raised to the degree of Master Mason while Master of Meridian Lodge, presented him

with a beautifully embroidered Past Master's Apron "in token of their friendship and brotherly love towards him," and as a memorial of that happy event; both these presentations being accompanied with engrossed testimonials of the esteem and regard of his brethren.

The number raised by Brother Bent is the largest ever attained by any Master of Meridian Lodge, so far as known; and it is believed that a larger number of these, his pupils in the royal art, became Worshipful Masters than of any other Master in our annals.

Brother Bent took the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry in Mount Lebanon Chapter, Milford, Massachusetts; being advanced to the degree of Mark Master January 21st, 1868, Past Master and Most Excellent Master February 18th, 1868, and Royal Arch Mason March 31st, 1868; and here his Masonic record, as relates to the so-called higher degrees, rests. Not so his participation in active Masonic work; for he is as constant in his attendance upon the social gatherings and lectures as of yore; and his zeal for the good of the Order has suffered no abatement with his exit from office.

Brother Bent has also been identified with the Order of the Eastern Star, having held the office of Worthy Patron in Aurora Chapter No. 9, Natick, Massachusetts. This Order, though in no sense Masonic, is yet related to it by the dearest of ties, being composed of Master Masons, their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters; and it may not be out of place to state here that the estimable wife of Brother Bent has held the presiding office in the above Chapter for two years with great success and credit to herself and the Order.

Our brother is hardly beyond the prime of physical life, and is at that riper age towards which we look for the wisest and broadest work in our craft. As he has in the past done much excellent work, much will no doubt be required of his more experienced skill; and it is no secret that his brethren expect a large measure of success in whatever he may undertake for the good of the Order; and further, that all wish for him no less a degree of happiness than of successful labor for the establishment of friendship, morality, and brotherly love.



EDWARD HOWE WILSON,
TWELFTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK,
INSTALLED 1880 AND '81.

THE twelfth Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge in Natick, Worshipful Edward Howe Wilson, is descended from both Masonic and patriotic ancestors; his paternal grandfather, Worshipful Brother John Wilson, M. D., having formerly been a Master of Meridian Lodge, and a man of note in social and political circles in his time. It was he who, when the announcement was first made that Henry Wilson had been elected President of the Massachusetts Senate, in 1850, predicted of him, it is said: "If Henry Wilson is elected President of the Massachusetts Senate, nothing but Almighty Power can keep him out of the Presidential chair."

How near this prophecy came to being realized is a matter of history, and shows the sagacity of the man who made it.

Brother Wilson's maternal grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812, and yielded up his life from disease contracted in the army while defending his country from a foreign foe.

The father of our subject, William Henry Wilson, was born in Framingham, Massachusetts; and his mother, Sarah H. (Howe) Wilson, was a native of Natick, having been born in what is said to have been the first house built in the town, and which stood on the site of the present "Brick Church" of the First Congregational Society.

Brother Wilson's birth occurred in Natick September 26th, 1848; his education being acquired in the public schools of this town, where also his life has thus far been spent.

During his youth he worked on the farm and in the shoeshop,

attaining such proficiency in the latter business that in 1865, at the age of seventeen years, he entered the factory of A. F. Travis, in Felchville, as an upper-leather cutter. Continuing in this business, he worked two years for Brother Henry F. Felch; four years for Danion, Thomas, & Lewis; and was for ten years more the foreman of the upper-leather room of the late John L. Woodman. At present he is holding the same position in the "John O. Wilson Shop," in his native town.

Since attaining his majority, Brother Wilson has always been interested in town affairs; and while not an office-holder or seeker, is a trusted member of society; his influence being none the less potent that it is quietly exerted,—he being a member of the Republican Town Committee, as well as of the Committee of Twenty-five.

He was elected to receive the degrees of Freemasonry in Meridian Lodge February 25th, 1874; was initiated April 8th; passed June 3d, and was raised June 24th of the same year by the lamented Worshipful William H. Wright.

In the year 1878 he was elected to the office of Junior Warden; in 1879 to that of Senior Warden, winning, while occupying these positions, so good an opinion of his abilities in the minds of his brethren that on the 13th day of October, 1880, they elected him to the chair of Worshipful Master, into which he was duly installed November 10th, 1880, succeeding himself for a second term of office in the year 1881.

During his administration the interest in the Lodge was well maintained; the meetings were large; the work was excellent; and its prosperity is well attested by the fact that during his incumbency the Lodge assumed the Grand Lodge tax, paying the demands against it in full to the Grand Treasurer,—a step that was a material benefit to the Lodge.

Brother Wilson was a careful and accurate workman, and his showing as Master was highly creditable both to himself and the society.

Brother Wilson is also a member of Parker Royal Arch Chapter; has passed through various official positions in that body, and served as its High Priest, as well as having filled the position

of Junior Warden in Natick Commandery of Knights Templar, of which he is an active member.

On March 21st, 1883, he received from the Lodge, by the hands of Brother James M. Forbush, a Past Master's Jewel, as a recognition of his services while in office; and later, in an informal manner, he was presented with an engrossment of the names of its donors. He has also been further honored by his companions of the Chapter in a similar manner by the presentation to him of a Past High Priest's Jewel,—Right Worshipful H. G. Wood making the presentation speech.

During the years of 1884, '85, '86. and '87, he served acceptably as District Deputy Grand Marshal on the staff of Right Worshipful H. G. Wood, District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-first Masonic District of Massachusetts; and as such, enjoyed a wide Masonic acquaintance, as well as an opportunity of witnessing the work of the Order as performed by various Lodges, all of which has added to his experience and knowledge as a craftsman.

Brother Wilson is yet in the prime and vigor of manhood, and his record-book is yet open. When, after many years more of useful labor it shall have been closed, may some future biographer, searching for and recording the virtues of his brethren, find upon its later pages a record more bright, and more honorable even, if possible, than it has fallen to the lot of the present writer to transcribe.



HENRY G. WOOD.

HENRY GAGE WOOD,

THIRTEENTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER IN NATICK.
INSTALLED 1882 AND '83.

It was on the first day of August, 1853, in the little township of Hollis, Hillsboro' County, New Hampshire, that Henry Gage Wood, the thirteenth Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge in Natick, first opened his eyes.

He was educated as a civil engineer, and was acting in that capacity when he made his advent in Natick, where he soon became well and favorably known, remaining an active, prominent, and respected citizen of our town ever since, with the exception of a short time which he spent in the South for the improvement of his health.

After his return from his Southern sojourn he was for a time employed in the Postoffice, subsequently entering the shoe manufactory of the late Lewis Nute as book-keeper, where he rapidly mastered the details of the business, and soon became, in conjunction with John O. Wilson, a trusted manager of the Natick factory. After the death of Mr. Nute, he became a member of the firm, conducting this large business in a successful manner up to the present time.

Brother Wood became an Entered Apprentice April 20th, 1880; passed June 2d, and was raised by Worshipful Silas H. Bent June 30th of the same month. So rapidly did he acquire a knowledge of the work that before the close of 1880 he was installed into the important and arduous position of Senior Deacon, fulfilling the difficult duties of that office with such satisfaction to his brethren that the year following he was elected Senior Warden of the Lodge.

While occupying the foregoing offices Brother Wood fully demonstrated his fitness and ability for any position to which he could be promoted; and when, in 1882, he was elected by his brethren and installed into the office of Worshipful Master, it was with the expectation on their part that his administration would prove both a brilliant and profitable one; nor were these expectations doomed to disappointment.

Our brother brought to bear upon his work the full power of an unusually active, studious, and analytical mind, and an enthusiasm of endeavor which he possessed the rare faculty of imparting to his subordinates in office, as well as to all others with whom he came in contact. His keen sense of the importance of detail made nothing too trivial for his personal attention and supervision; while his unlimited patience in drill, soon made the floor movements of his corps of workers a marvel of accurate and concerted action which attracted the attention and won the approval of Masonic critics throughout the State, eliciting from them the strongest expressions of well deserved approbation.

He was also most fortunate in the character of both his elective and appointed officers, who rendered him loyal support; and the work of the Lodge, already remarkable for its accuracy and high excellence, while losing none of these characteristics, became noted for its systematic and almost perfect machinery of execution.

Brother Wood was master of a fine and graceful delivery, a correct enunciation, and a readiness of expression in emergencies; while his prepared speeches show ability and thought which cause them deservedly to rank among the classics of our Lodge literature.

The numbers present at the communications of the Lodge during his administration had never before been paralleled in its history; and the interest in the work was such that the two years in which he occupied the position of Worshipful Master still stand among the most successful of its existence. At the close of his second term of office he was presented with a Past Master's Jewel, especially designed by a brother of his Lodge, which was said to have been one of the most beautiful that had at that time ever been made in the State of Massachusetts; and in connection

with it was a finely engraved testimonial with the names and compliments of its presentors.

In other branches of Masonry also has our brother been called to occupy responsible positions; having been exalted to the "Royal Arch" degree in Parker Chapter April 5th, 1881, and reaching its highest office, he became its High Priest in 1884, in which position his work of the Most Excellent Master's degree attracted widespread attention. This society also recognized the value of his services by the presentation of a Past High Priest's Jewel, and a testimonial at the close of his term of office.

In addition to the Blue Lodge and Chapter our brother is also a member of Natick Commandery Knights Templar, and in the Ancient and Accepted Scotch Rite he has taken the thirty-second degree.

In the years 1883, '84, and '85 he served as District Deputy Grand Master of the Twenty-first Masonic District of Massachusetts, and the discharge of the duties of that office received the warmest praise of his brethren, and the approbation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. But perhaps the crowning honor of his Masonic career was his election to the office of Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in December 1888,—a compliment not only to his ability and zeal as a Mason, but also to the Lodge which he had so acceptably served, and in which his laurels had been so deservedly won.

Not alone as a Mason, however, has our Right Worshipful brother made an honorable record; for in the year 1885 he was Captain of Company G, First Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, at that time the crack regiment of the Commonwealth; and as such it was sent by the authorities to represent the State at the Military funeral of Ex-president U. S. Grant at New York August 8th, 1885, where its marching and general conduct received the highest praise from the press, private citizens, and the civil and military authorities, of which Company G received its full share. Later his efficiency as an officer was recognized by his appointment on the staff of the late Colonel Austin Wellington,—an honor which he well deserved.

Thus early in manhood has our well beloved brother occupied many positions of trust and responsibility, and his abilities are

fully and universally believed in by his townsmen. He is at the head of one of the largest shoe manufactories of this busy town, and his success in this line seems assured ; but should he decide to change it for some other occupation, his friends are sure that his hands will be filled with the palms of success ; and their hope is that his future day may be bright with the sunshine of happiness, until the crimson glow of life's tranquil evening shall o'er-take him.



*Yours Fraternally,
Friedrich L.*

DR. FREDERICK LEWIS,
FOURTEENTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK,
INSTALLED 1884 AND '85.

OUR active, earnest and genial brother, Dr. Frederick Lewis, was born in Manchester, Maine, February 15th, 1850; his parents—Darius Lewis and Caroline (La Favor) Lewis—also being natives of that State.

At the tender age of eight years our brother was visited by a great misfortune in the death of his father; and in 1860, two years later, when only ten years old, he—in company with his widowed mother—went to Boston where he entered the dental office of Dr. E. F. Whitman as office-boy; thus early beginning the struggle of life; but in return receiving that bent of mind which, combined with his early training, has secured to him success in his chosen profession.

He remained with Dr. Whitman about eight years, having by diligence and studious application risen to the position of assistant in the Doctor's dental laboratory; in the meantime having acquired such skill as a practitioner that in 1868 he was enabled to enter the office of Dr. C. H. Magoon Wakefield, Massachusetts, as assistant dentist. Here he still continued the study of his profession, and, assisted by his daily practise, he completed it in 1873.

Besides his office studies our brother had found time to attend school in Manchester, and in Boston, Massachusetts; and on finishing his course in dentistry, was as well equipped for success in life as many young men toward whom fortune had seemed more favorably disposed at the beginning of their career.

Brother Lewis first began practise on his own account in Ashland, Massachusetts, where he opened dental rooms in 1873; but

seeing a more favorable prospect for success in the busy town of Natick, he removed thither in 1878, and opening a dental office, has continued the practise of his profession here ever since.

Soon after completing his course of study, Brother Lewis was married to Miss M. Louise Wilkinson, of Revere, Massachusetts, on the eleventh day of August, 1874 ; thus laying the foundation for domestic comfort and happiness, as he had previously done for his professional success.

From a favorable opinion entertained of Freemasonry, our brother was prompted to seek admission to its mysteries, and on January 21st, 1880, he was initiated an Entered Apprentice ; March 10th, 1880, he was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason April 7th, 1880. In Masonry as in dentistry Brother Lewis proved himself an apt pupil ; for he was installed Junior Steward on November 2d, 1880 ; rose to the position of Senior Deacon, and was installed as such November 22d, 1881 ; was made Senior Warden November 14th, 1882 ; and November 5th, 1883, and reached the chair in less than four years and ten months from his initiation, being installed Worshipful Master November 13th, 1884,—a fact which is sufficient testimony both to his popularity in Masonic circles, and his ability as a workman of our Craft.

The work of the Lodge had at this time become famous ; and Brother Lewis labored with his utmost zeal to maintain its high standard. His labors were successful ; for the meetings were so largely attended that the capacity of the Lodgeroom was often tasked to the utmost to accommodate the members and their visiting brethren, and praise of the Lodge-work was frequent and warmly expressed.

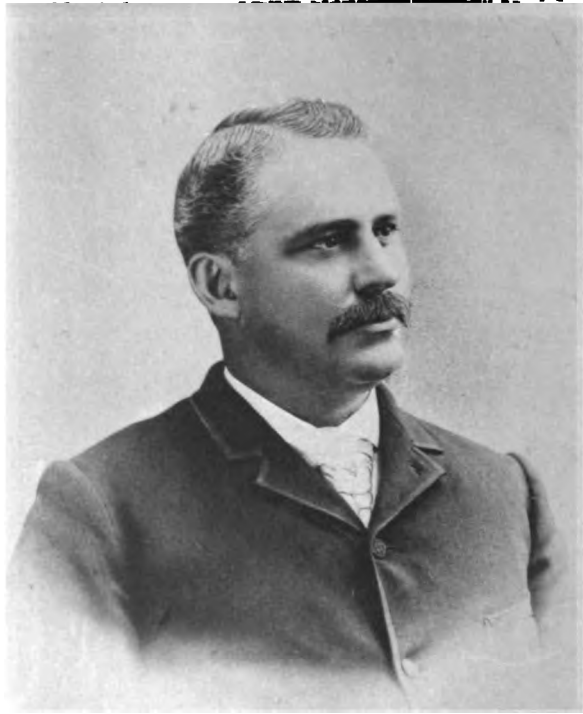
On November 14th of the following year (1885) he was again installed Worshipful Master, and another successful year followed,—the attendance being large, and the officers enthusiastic in their work : and when, at a large meeting of the Lodge held Wednesday, November 10th, 1886, he was presented by his brethren with a Past Master's Jewel and Apron, and an engrossed testimonial, they all felt that these honors were as worthily bestowed as they had been fairly merited.

Having thus passed through the Chair with honor, our brother continued in active Masonic service, accepting the office of Marshal of the Lodge in 1887, '88, and '89.

Like most of our Past Masters, Brother Lewis has taken the Capitular degrees; having been made Mark Master January 1st, 1884; Past Master January 15th, '84; Most Excellent Master March 4th; and Royal Arch Mason April 1st of the same year.

He has further added to his Masonic record in Natick Commandery, where he was created Knight of the Red Cross January 4th, 1886, and Knight Templar and Knight of Malta February 15th, 1886; at which point his history as a Mason rests.

How much higher he may yet climb on the speculative ladder is a matter of conjecture; but however elevated the position which he may attain, he will occupy it with the best wishes of his brothers for his prosperity and success.



Truly
Chas. C. Henry

CHARLES CASPER HENRY,
FIFTEENTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK,
INSTALLED 1886 AND 1887.

AN example of zeal and industry in the history of our Lodge may be noted in the life of Worshipful Charles Casper Henry, who was born of German parents in the city of Brooklyn, New York, November 1st, 1852,—his father, Nicholas Henry, being a native of Kaiserslautern, a town of Rhenish Bavaria, on the Rhine; and his mother, Ann Catherine (Schaffer) Henry, coming from Hesse Cassel, where she was born September 1st, 1827.

Worshipful Brother Henry received his early education in the public schools of Brooklyn, New York, and in the Columbia Institute at Washington, D. C., living in the city of his nativity until the year 1870, with the exception of two years, which were spent in the National Capital. In this year, at the age of eighteen, full of the vigor and ambition of early manhood, he came to Natick, where, in the year 1872, on the 12th day of April, he was married to Miss Hattie Louisa Hall, a niece of our late Worshipful James H. Parker, a young lady of great promise. Their union was destined to be of but short duration; for his young wife passed to the undiscovered country on the twenty-first day of the following October. On the second day of August, 1874, Brother Henry was again married; this time to Miss Adeline Sylvia Babcock, a daughter of our Worshipful Brother Malachi Babcock. This marriage resulted in the birth of two children,—Edward Everett and Grace Gertrude, born respectively January 25th, 1876, and January 18th, 1878.

From the time of his arrival in Natick until the year 1881 our brother engaged in various ventures of a mercantile character. He then entered the employ of the Boston and Albany Railroad

Corporation as Station Baggage-master at Natick. He was soon promoted to the office of clerk; and in May, 1884, the corporation, recognizing his efficiency, appointed him to the position of Station Agent at Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts,—a position which he still retains. He now resides at Wellesley Hills, removing thither May 30th, 1884, after a residence in Natick of about fourteen years.

In the year 1885, although actively engaged in Masonry as Senior Warden of Meridian Lodge, and Chaplain of Parker Royal Arch Chapter, as well as in his regular business as Station Agent, our brother found time to contribute weekly articles to the public press; and although elected Auditor of the town of Wellesley in 1891 and 1892, and at the same time holding the arduous position of Secretary of Meridian Lodge, he still finds time to fulfill the duties of all these offices in a satisfactory manner, and may be truly termed a busy man.

His life-work as a Mason, however, more closely interests the fraternity, and in this sphere he has had an active and successful career.

He received the Entered Apprentice degree in Meridian Lodge, Natick, Massachusetts, November 14th, 1877; that of Fellow Craft December 19th, 1877; and was made Master Mason Jan'y 16th, 1878. His advancement was unusually rapid; for on the 16th of the following November he was installed as Senior Steward; in November of 1879, '80, and '81, as Secretary; and in 1882 and '83 as Senior Deacon. It was in this position that our brother's marked ability for Masonic ritual work first attracted general attention. Possessed of a good voice for public speaking, and no small measure of elocutionary taste, he readily seized upon the salient points belonging to his office-work, and by their effective delivery, endeavored to make them what they should be to the ear, as they have always been to the understanding.

His efforts were appreciated; for at a regular meeting of the Lodge held August 27th, 1884, Worshipful Brother Henry G. Wood, in an eloquent speech, after congratulating brother Henry upon his faithful work as Secretary, and his brilliant success as Senior Deacon, in behalf of his brethren, presented him with an elegant gold watch and chain of the Elgin pattern, the former

bearing upon its inner cap the engraved inscription, "Presented to Charles Casper Henry by his Masonic Friends;" and adds the chronicle, "It is an elegant gift, worthily bestowed."

In November of 1884 and '85, he was installed Senior Warden, and in November of 1886 he was placed in the Chair as Master of the Lodge, — being reëlected and installed for his second term in November, 1887. In this office he strove to maintain the work of the Order in the preëminent position to which his predecessors had elevated it, carrying into his delivery of the work the same careful preparation and expression that had made him so successful as Senior Deacon. That his efforts were a success is attested by the fact that on the evening of his second installation as Master, which was public, in the presence of nearly three hundred brethren, with members of their families, Brother Henry received by the hands of Hon. Charles Q. Tirrell, as representative of the Lodge, a most elegant Past Master's Jewel of gold, set with precious stones, and an elaborately engrossed testimonial; — "presented," as Brother Tirrell took occasion to remark, "not as a reward of merit, but in grateful appreciation of disinterested and successful service."

On the same evening the Masonic brethren of Brother Henry, who were with him employed by the Boston and Albany Railroad, nearly one hundred of whom were present, through the mediumship of Worshipful James Woods of Montgomery Lodge, Milford, Massachusetts, presented him with a costly and beautiful Past Master's Apron of silk and satin, heavily embroidered with gold, and ornamented with bullion fringe,—an incident which shows that the appreciation of his work was not confined to the brethren of his Masonic home.

That the brethren at large were anxious to witness the work as rendered by the Lodge during his administration, is vouched for by the numbers who visited its meetings, reaching at times to nearly four hundred; while the popularity of the Order is shown by the fact that during the two years in which Brother Henry was Master, he raised thirty-one candidates to the degree of Master Mason.

At one of these large meetings, near the close of our brother's administration in September 1888, he was again honored by the

present of a beautiful album of plush and choice woods, handsomely mounted upon a stand, and containing the photographs of thirty of the candidates whom he had raised to the Master Mason's degree. Upon its cover it bore a silver plate with the inscription, "C. C. Henry, Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge A. F. and A. M., from Brothers upon whom he conferred the degrees of Freemasonry: September, 1888."

Brother Frank M. Forbush, one of the thirty, made the presentation in an interesting and pleasing manner. This meeting was further made memorable by the presentation of an engrossed vote of thanks from Meridian to Excelsior Lodge of Franklin, Massachusetts, in acknowledgement of Masonic courtesies extended to Meridian Lodge at the funeral of our late Brother E. M. Phipps. This presentation was made by Worshipful Brother Henry in person, and was accepted by Acting Master Wycoff of Excelsior Lodge, with whom were present about twenty-five of the Franklin brethren.

Probably the most notable event in the history of Meridian Lodge was the celebration of Saint John's Day June 25th, 1887, at which His Excellency, Oliver Ames, Governor of Massachusetts, Lieutenant Governor John Q. A. Brackett, and many Masons of distinction were present and made speeches. The exercises occupied the entire day and evening, and consisted of religious services in the First Congregational Church, a procession, a dinner in Concord Hall, and an evening reception; all of which features were entirely successful: but to give an adequate idea, or even a synopsis of this occasion, is far beyond the scope of this article. It was an event long to be remembered; and to Brother Henry should be given the credit due to one who conceives and successfully presides over a public celebration of the interest and importance of this, although no one will be more ready than himself to share his honors with the various officers and members of the Lodge who so ably and earnestly supported him.

After the election of Brother Henry's successor, he was chosen and accepted the office of Secretary for the years 1889, '90, '91, and '92,—a renewed indication of the confidence of the Lodge;

andin May, 1891, he received the appointment of Chairman of the Committee on the History of Meridian Lodge.

It is not in the Blue Lodge alone that our brother has labored and become eminent ; for he took the degrees in Capitular Masonry in Parker Royal Arch Chapter upon the following dates, viz : Mark Master and Past Master February 19, 1884 ; Most Excellent Master March 4th, 1884 ; and Royal Arch Mason March 20th, 1884. In October of the same year he had risen to the office of Captain of the Host ; in 1885 and '86 he was installed Chaplain ; was made King in 1890, and Most Excellent High Priest in 1891 : thus reaching the highest office in this organization, the Jewel appropriate to which was presented to him in behalf of the Chapter by Right Excellent Companion James Downs at a Regular Convocation February 2d, 1892.

Not content with the light received in the preceding degrees, our brother petitioned to be received into Natick Commandery Knights Templar, and was created a Knight of the Red Cross April 7th, 1884 ; Knight Templar May 5th, 1884 ; and Knight of Malta July 7th, 1884 ; being installed Prelate of the Commandery in November, 1889.

At the Massachusetts Convention of High Priests located at Boston, our Brother received the Holy Order of High Priesthood in March 1891, which degree at present crowns his Masonic career. many previously acquired dignities.

What other distinctions in civic or Masonic life the future may hold for our brother time alone will disclose ; but as justice is one of the cardinal virtues of Freemasonry, we may hope to see him occupy positions commensurate with his attainments and deserts ; all of which it is the hope of his many friends that he may ultimately receive.



*Yours Fraternal,
Jas. H. Killgore.*

JAMES HASTINGS GILLIGAN,
SIXTEENTH WORSHIPFUL MASTER AT NATICK,
INSTALLED 1888 AND 1889.

OUR Worshipful Brother James Hastings Gilligan, was the sixteenth Worshipful Master of Meridian Lodge after its removal to Natick, and was born at Machias, Maine, on the anniversary of the birthday of the "Father of his Country," February 22d, 1853,—his parents, Andrew Gilligan and Margaret (Hastings) Gilligan, being natives of the North of Ireland.

He was deprived of their parental care and love at the early age of eight years,—his parents dying within a few months of each other in the year 1861. He had at this time laid the foundation of his educational edifice in the public schools of Machias, and after the loss of his father and mother he continued the building in the public schools of Boston, where he went to live with his sister, Mrs. T. A. Matthews. He also attended school during his eleventh year in Portland, Maine.

At the age of twelve years he began his life's work by entering the service of Henry Fowle, a clothing manufacturer and merchant of Boston,—this being his first essay as an *entered apprentice*, so far as recorded; and though this occupation is not strictly within the province of Masonry, our brother here became a *master*, obtaining a thorough knowledge of the art of cutting clothing, and remaining with this firm until the year 1871.

In 1873 he came to Natick and engaged himself with the popular firm of Whitcomb and Cozzens, both of whom were active Masons and members of Meridian Lodge. Here he speedily became a favorite with the patrons of the house, and the following year he purchased the custom tailoring department of the firm, and has been engaged in that business ever since.

In the year 1878 he entered the mystic portals of the Masonic Institution, and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason September 18th of that year by Worshipful Silas H. Bent. After serving the Lodge in the various positions of Junior Steward, Senior Deacon, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden, he was finally elected to the office of Worshipful Master in October 1888; for which position his long continued labors in subordinate positions had eminently fitted him.

On the 19th of November, at the very outset of his administration, a notable and pleasant event in the history of the Lodge occurred in the gift to it of the original gavel used by its Master about the time when it received its Charter (1797), it then being located in Watertown, Massachusetts. The presentation was made at a large meeting by Worshipful A. F. Haynes in behalf of Pequossette Lodge of Watertown, into whose possession this cherished relic had descended; and in gratitude for this fraternal courtesy, and in recognition of the great value of this ancient memento of the early Masonic history of their Lodge, the brethren of Meridian Lodge, on December 12th, 1888, passed a vote of thanks, and presented an engraved and framed copy of the same to Pequossette Lodge on the 14th of February, 1889.

On the 15th of May, 1889, another pleasing and interesting incident in Brother Gilligan's administration occurred; it being the presentation to the Lodge of a framed crayon portrait of Worshipful Charles C. Henry, drawn by that excellent artist Worshipful Charles Storer, who made an appropriate and suggestive speech. The picture is 30 by 50 inches in size, and represents its subject in full Masonic regalia, in the act of presiding over the Lodge.

At the close of his term Brother Gilligan was reelected, and served successfully as Master a second year, near the beginning of which—on February 5th, 1890—he was given and invested with a handsome Past Master's Jewel in evidence of the acceptability of his services to the Lodge, and his efforts to advance the Order,—the presentation being made by Worshipful Charles C. Henry in a pleasing and happy manner.

Once again, at the close of his second term of office, was he similarly remembered and honored by his brothers, when on the

26th day of November, 1890, they presented to him a beautiful Past Master's Apron.

Brother Gilligan thus retired from his high office with the fraternal regards of his Lodge, and is now one of the Trustees of its Charity Fund, which is evidence of the confidence still reposed in him.

Our Worshipful Brother has also been an earnest worker in Parker Royal Arch Chapter, in which he received the degrees of that branch of Masonry, and has been honored as its Principal Sojourner, Chaplain, Excellent King, and Most Excellent High Priest,—having been installed into this latter position in 1886, and holding it one year, as is the present custom in this Chapter. At the close of his term of office as High Priest he was the recipient of an elegant Jewel appropriate to his rank, and an engrossed testimonial from the hands of his Companions of the Chapter; tangible and beautiful proofs of their estimation of him and of his labors.

Life is still largely before our brother, and preferment and honor are still possible. May the future be even more generous to him in these regards than the past has been, and in his labors may fortune follow him with her favors till the time when he shall enter into rest and refreshment.



*Yours Fraternally,
C. F. Soule.*

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MASONRY.*

"There are two kinds of Masonry,—Operative and Speculative." -- RITUAL.

WHEN we take into consideration the peculiar character of our Institution ; the fact that the veil of mystery has ever been thrown around its history, its doctrines, and its proceedings ; and that compared with it the "art preservative of all arts" is but of yesterday,† we need not wonder at the variety of opinions advanced, and theories held, respecting the *origin* of our universally acknowledged "Ancient Institution."

While one class of writers goes back even to the Garden of Eden, in tracing the origin of Freemasonry, another denies its existence previous to the latter part of the sixteenth century. Though such diversity of opinion may embarrass the Masonic student and retard his progress, yet it need not seriously mislead him from the path to light upon the subject.

In pursuing our investigations we should keep constantly in mind the double character of Freemasonry, — that it is an operative art and a speculative science : and that as it at present exists, it exhibits the strongest internal evidence of having been established by an union of the two, at some remote period of time. When and where was such a union formed, and for what purpose ?

During the middle ages the whole of Europe was perambulated by associated bands of artisans, under the name of "Free and Accepted Masons," whose business was the erection of religious edifices. As far as can be ascertained these fraternities

* From Surretti's History of Corinthian Lodge, Concord, Mass.

† The first printed Masonic book was *The Constitution of Freemasons* by Anderson, London, 1723.

were remarkably similar in their habits, usages, and form of government, which has led to the very general belief that they had a common origin.

The most reliable historians trace the organization of these associations to the "Collegiæ Artificum," or "Colleges of Artisans," instituted at Rome by Numa, about 714 B. C., whose members were originally Greeks, imported by him for the purpose of embellishing that city. They were endowed with certain privileges peculiar to themselves, among which was an immunity from taxation, from which privilege they received the title of *Free* Masons. Their meetings were held in private; they were divided into three classes, corresponding to the three degrees of Freemasonry; they admitted into their ranks as honorary members those who were not by profession operative Masons; used a symbolic language, drawn from the implements of Masonry; and were in possession of a secret mode of recognition. After filling the continent with churches and other religious edifices, these travelling architects or Masons passed over into England, and finally into Scotland. At Kilwinning, in Scotland, they erected an Abbey and established a Lodge. Through this Lodge Scottish Freemasonry has regularly descended to the present day.

In England, the earliest account we have of them is in an old manuscript, which declares that "St. Albans loved Masons well and made their pay right good," and that he obtained from Carausus, the British Emperor, A. D., 287, "a charter to allow them to meet in general assembly."

The next account, and the earliest one upon which we can place much reliance, is that of a General Assembly, A. D. 926, when "Prince Edwin obtained of his brother, King Athelstane, a charter for the Masons as a body, and summoned all the Masons in the Realm to meet him in a congregation at York, who came and composed a General Lodge, of which he was Grand Master, and having brought with them all the writings and records extant, some in Greek, some in Latin, some in French, and other languages, from the contents thereof that assembly did frame the constitution and charges of an English Lodge, and made a law to observe and preserve the same in all time coming.

From this assembly we date the origin of the Grand Lodge of York, from which, and from the Lodge of Kilwinning, all our present Grand Lodges are descended. From A. D. 926 to the completion of St. Paul's Cathedral (about 1690), we have authentic accounts sufficient to prove that the General Assembly at York was regularly held, or with but few interruptions.

Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St. Paul's Cathedral, was elected Grand Master of Masons in 1685, and continued at the head of the Fraternity until the death of King William [William of Nassau], in 1702. The building of St. Paul's was the last great work of the Operative Freemasons. Masonry had already begun to decline; but few Lodges met regularly, and the annual festivals of the craft were entirely neglected. To increase their numbers a proposition was made and agreed to "*that the privileges of Masonry should no longer be restricted to operative Masons, but extend to men of various professions, provided they were regularly approved and initiated into the Order.*"

In consequence of this resolution new regulations were adopted, and the society once more rose into notice and esteem. A new Grand Lodge was formed (the Grand Lodge of England, 1717), which declared that hereafter no new Lodge should be deemed regular unless it was legally authorized to act by a warrant from the Grand Master for the time being. Under the new regulations Lodges were soon established in various parts of the world, and in 1733 the first American Grand Lodge was formed at Boston.

We have thus, though necessarily with much brevity, traced our Masonic genealogy through the Grand Lodge of England, and the travelling Freemasons of the middle ages, to the "Colleges of Artisans" at Rome. The Architects who first composed these colleges were imported by Numa from Greece. On turning our attention to Greece we find that the priests of Bacchus, or as the Greeks called him. Dionysus, devoted themselves to architectural pursuits in connection with their religious mysteries. In 1076, B. C. they established a society or fraternity of builders in Tyre, who were styled by the ancient writers "The Fraternity of Dionyscian Architects." This society of Architects was established 362 years before the Roman Emperor imported his

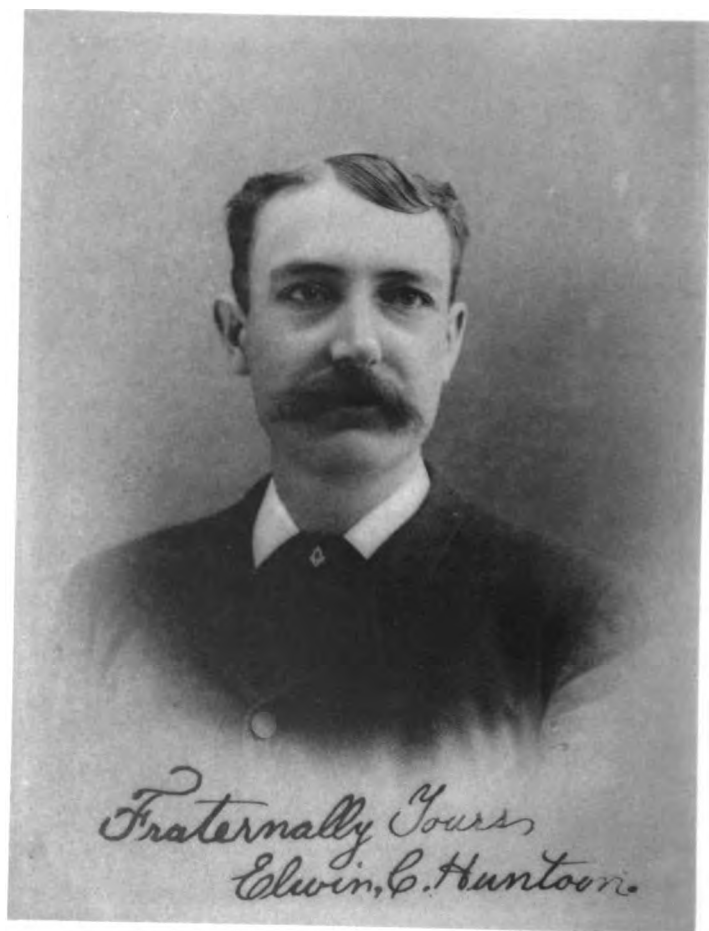
artisans from Greece, so that we may safely conclude that the Roman and the Tyrian artisans had a common origin.

The establishment of the Fraternity at Tyre is the earliest reliable record we have of a *society or fraternity* of operative Masons or builders. Though the priests of Dionysus taught architecture in connection with their religious mysteries (which mysteries were originally introduced from Egypt), we have no earlier record of an *organized society* for the purposes named.

The fraternity of Architects established in Tyre soon became celebrated throughout Judea, and the countries round about, for their great skill; and when (about 70 years afterwards) King Solomon determined to execute the pious resolution of David, his father, he applied to the King of Tyre for assistance of this very kind, which was cheerfully granted. We may not only suppose that some, at least, of the workmen sent to Solomon were acquainted with the secrets of these Dionyscian artificers, but that it was on account of this knowledge and skill they were so much desired by the King of Israel.

At the building of the Temple, it is commonly supposed, was formed, through the wisdom of King Solomon, a union of operative Masonry with the speculative doctrines of the Jews, as taught by them esoterically or secretly. These doctrines were the unity of God and the immortality of the soul, which, until the dawn of Christianity, were ever taught in secret as sacred mysteries. Among the thousands employed on that remarkable edifice, many were doubtless admitted to a knowledge of the secrets of both operative and speculative Masonry; and on their dispersion at its completion, *they carried this knowledge with them into other countries.*

From the completion of the Temple until the Roman Emperor established his colleges of artisans, was a period of 490 years, during which time the Temple had been destroyed, the Jews carried captive to Babylon, the second Temple built by Zerubabel; and Babylon, and many other celebrated cities had been founded. It was also during this intervening period that the great Pythagoras (whom one of the oldest Masonic manuscripts declares introduced Masonry into Europe), after having travelled extensively throughout Asia, Africa, and Europe, established his



celebrated school at Crotona, in Italy. The society or fraternity established by Pythagoras, strongly resembled in its organization, as well as in its distinctive principles, the system of Freemasonry.

The mystery that hangs over our Order during these five hundred years, renders this one of the most interesting periods in our whole history. We are unable to say, precisely how or when Freemasonry, as modified at the Temple, was transplanted from Jerusalem to Europe,—whether it was through the colleges of artisans at Rome, the travels and teachings of Pythagoras, or by the workmen from the Temple and their successors; but we know that it *was* thus transplanted, and that it rapidly spread over the continent through the travelling Freemasons before alluded to, and through them has come down to us. We are also unable to define the precise connection between Freemasonry and the “Ancient Mysteries,” but that there was a most intimate connection, the striking similarity of their doctrines and many of their ceremonies abundantly prove. The most extensive of these mysteries were those of Mithras in Persia, Osiris in Egypt, and Dionysus in Greece. In all these mysteries we find a similar unity of design, clearly indicating a common origin. Their ceremonies were conducted in secret, and their doctrines only communicated to those who had proved their fitness to receive them by a previous initiation. Their members were in possession of *signs* and *tokens* by which they were enabled to recognize each other; their ceremonies of initiation were all funeral in their character, and celebrated the death and resurrection of some being, either esteemed as a hero, or the object of devotion as a God. Subordination of degrees was instituted, and the full fruition of knowledge was not attained until the aspirant, well tried and thoroughly purified, had reached the place of wisdom and of light.

The remarkable similarity of these doctrines and their ceremonies with those of modern speculative Masonry is undeniable, and forces home the conviction of a common origin. That Masonry has experienced many changes, both exoteric and esoteric, and is yet changeable, we cannot deny; but that in its great doctrines and principles it is the same now that it was in the dim

centuries of antiquity, we firmly believe. Now, as then, it teaches Faith in God, Hope in Immortality, and Charity to all Mankind.

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN AMERICA.

FREEMASONS' Lodges in America are of recent date. Upon application of a number of brethren residing in Boston, a warrant was granted by the Right Honorable and Most Worshipful Anthony (Lord Viscount Montague), Grand Master of Masons in England, dated 30th of April, 1733, appointing the Right Worshipful Henry Price, Grand Master of North America, with full power and authority to appoint his deputy, and other Masonic officers necessary for forming a Grand Lodge; and also to constitute Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons, as often as occasion should require.

In consequence of this commission, the Grand Master opened a Grand Lodge in Boston,* on the 30th of July, 1733, in due form, and appointed the Right Worshipful Andrew Belcher, Deputy Grand Master; the Worshipful Thomas Kennelly and John Quann, Grand Wardens.

The Grand Lodge being thus organized, under the designation of SAINT JOHN'S GRAND LODGE, proceeded to grant warrants for instituting regular Lodges in various parts of America; and from this Grand Lodge originated the first Lodges in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Barbadoes, Antigua, Newfoundland, Louisburg, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Surinam, and Saint Christophers.

In 1775 hostilities commenced between Great Britain and America. Boston became a garrison, and was abandoned by many of its former inhabitants. The regular meetings of the Grand Lodges were terminated, and the brethren of Saint John's Grand Lodge held no assembly until after the reëstablishment of peace.

*Sometimes called "The Grand Lodge of Modern Masons."

There was at that time also a Grand Lodge holden at Boston, upon the ANCIENT establishment, under the designation of "THE MASSACHUSETTS GRAND LODGE," which originated as follows :

In 1755 a number of brethren residing in Boston who were ANCIENT MASONS, in consequence of a petition to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, received a deputation dated Nov. 30th, 1756, from Sholto Charles Douglas (Lord Aberdour), then Grand Master, constituting them a regular Lodge, under the title of SAINT ANDREW'S LODGE, No. 82, to be holden at Boston.

This establishment was discouraged and opposed by the Saint John's Grand Lodge, who thought their privileges infringed by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. They therefore refused to have any intercourse with Saint Andrew's Lodge for several years.

The prosperous state of Saint Andrew's Lodge soon led its members to make great exertions for the establishment of an Ancient Grand Lodge in America, which was soon effected in Boston by the assistance of travelling Lodges belonging to the British army who were stationed there.

1769, December 27 : The Festival of the Evangelists was celebrated in due form. When the brethren were assembled a commission from the Right Honorable and Most Worshipful George (Earl of Dalhousie), Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, dated the 30th of May, 1769, appointing Joseph Warren to be Grand Master of Masons in Boston, and within one hundred miles of the same was read ; and he was, according to ancient usage, duly installed into that office. The Grand Master then appointed and installed the other Grand Officers, and the Grand Lodge was at this time completely organized.

Between this period and the year 1791, this Grand Lodge granted warrants of constitution for Lodges to be holden in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, and New York.

In the year 1773 a commission was received from the Right Honorable and Most Worshipful Patrick (Earl of Dumfries), Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, dated March 3d, 1772, appointing the Right Worshipful Joseph Warren, Esq., Grand Master of Masons for the CONTINENT OF AMERICA.

In 1775 the meetings of the Grand Lodge were suspended by the town of Boston becoming a garrison.

At the battle of Bunker's Hill, on the 17th of June, this year, Masonry and the Grand Lodge met with a heavy loss in the death of Grand Master Warren, who was slain contending for the liberties of his country.

Soon after the evacuation of Boston by the British army, and previous to any regular Communication, the brethren, influenced by a pious regard for the memory of the late Grand Master, were induced to search for his body, which had been rudely and indiscriminately buried in the field of slaughter. They accordingly repaired to the place, and by the direction of a person who was on the ground at the time of his burial, a spot was found where the earth had been recently turned up. Upon removing the turf and opening the grave, which was on the brow of a hill, and adjacent to a small cluster of sprigs, the remains were discovered, in a mangled condition, but were easily ascertained;* and being decently raised, were conveyed to the State-House in Boston: from whence, by a large and respectable number of brethren, — with the late Grand Officers attending in procession, — they were carried to the stone chapel, where an animated eulogium was delivered by Brother Perez Morton. The body was then deposited in the silent vault “without a sculptured stone to mark the spot; but as the whole earth is the sepulchre of illustrious men, his fame, his glorious actions, are engraved on the tablet of universal remembrance, and will survive marble monuments or local inscriptions.”

1777, March 8: The brethren, who had been dispersed in consequence of the war, being now generally collected, they assembled to take into consideration the state of Masonry. Being deprived of their chief by the melancholy death of their Grand Master, as before mentioned, after due consideration they proceeded to the formation of a Grand Lodge, and elected and installed the Most Worshipful Joseph Webb their Grand Master.

1783, January 3: A committee was appointed to draft resolutions explanatory of the power and authority of this Grand

* By an artificial tooth.

Lodge. On the 24th June following, the committee reported as follows, viz :

“The committee appointed to take into consideration the conduct of those brethren who assume the powers and prerogatives of a Grand Lodge on the Ancient Establishment in this place, and examine the extent of their authority and jurisdiction, together with the powers of any other Ancient Masonic institution within the same, beg leave to report the result of their examination, founded on the following facts. viz :

“That the commission from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, granted to our late Grand Master Joseph Warren, Esq., having died with him, of course his Deputy (whose appointment was derived from his nomination) being no longer in existence, they saw themselves without a head, and without a single Grand Officer ; and of consequence it was evident that not only the Grand Lodge, but all the particular Lodges under its jurisdiction, must cease to assemble, the brethren be dispersed, the penniless go unassisted, the craft languish, and ANCIENT Masonry be extinct in this part of the world :

“That in consequence of a summons from the former Grand Officers to the Masters and Wardens of all the regularly constituted Lodges, a Grand Communication was held to consult and advise on some means to preserve the intercourse of the brethren :

“That the political head of this country having destroyed this connection and correspondence between the subjects of these States and the country from which the Grand Lodge originally derived its commissioned authority ; and the principles of the craft inculcating on its professors submission to the commands of the civil authority of the country they reside in ; the brethren did assume an elective supremacy, and under it chose a Grand Master and Grand Officers, and erected a Grand Lodge with independent powers and prerogatives ; to be exercised however on principles consistent with, and subordinate to, the regulations pointed out in the constitutions of Ancient Masonry :

“That the reputation and utility of the Craft under their jurisdiction has been more extensively diffused by the flourishing state of FOURTEEN Lodges constituted by their authority within a short-

er period than that in which **THREE ONLY** received dispensations under the former Grand Lodge :

“That in the history of our Craft we find that in England there are two Grand Lodges independent of each other ; in Scotland the same ; and in Ireland their Grand Lodge and Grand Master are independent of either England or Scotland ; it is clear that the authority of some of their Grand Lodges originated in assumption ; or otherwise they would acknowledge the head from whence they derived.

“Your committee are therefore of opinion that the doings of the present Grand Lodge were dictated by principles of the clearest necessity, founded in the highest reason, and warranted by precedents of the most approved authority.”

This report was accepted, and corresponding resolutions entered into by the Grand Lodge, and recorded.

1791, December 5 : A committee was appointed, agreeably to a vote of the 2d of March, 1787, to “confer with the officers of Saint John’s Grand Lodge upon the subject of a complete Masonic union throughout this Commonwealth.”

On the 5th of March, 1792, the committee brought in their report, and presented a copy of the laws and constitution for associating and uniting the two Grand Lodges, as agreed to by Saint John’s Grand Lodge ; which being read and deliberately considered, was unanimously approved of.

1792, June 19 : The officers and members of the two Grand Lodges met in conjunction, agreeably to previous arrangements, and installed the Most Worshipful John Cutler Grand Master ; and resolved, “That this Grand Lodge, organized as aforesaid, shall forever hereafter be known by the name of **THE GRAND LODGE OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND HONORABLE SOCIETY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.**”

In addition to the powers vested by charter in the two Grand Lodges before mentioned for instituting subordinate Lodges, the Grand Lodge of England appointed **PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS** in several of the States, and invested them also with authority to grant warrants for holding Lodges.

The Revolution which separated the American Colonies from

the Government of the mother country also exonerated the American Lodges from their allegiance to foreign Grand Lodges; because the principles of Masonry inculcate obedience to the government under which we live. The Lodges in the several States, therefore, after the termination of the war, resorted to the proper and necessary means of forming and establishing independent Grand Lodges for the government of the fraternity in their respective jurisdictions.

Freemasonry owes its introduction into Pennsylvania to Benjamin Franklin. On the 24th of June, 1734, a warrant was granted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for holding a Lodge in Philadelphia, and appointing him the first Master. He cultivated Masonry with great zeal, and his partiality suffered no diminution during his long and illustrious life.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is the oldest Masonic establishment in the United States. The first Grand Lodge ever held on this Continent was at Boston, on the 30th July, 1733, known by the name of SAINT JOHN'S GRAND LODGE, and descended from the Grand Master of England.

The Massachusetts Grand Lodge, also holden at Boston, was first established on the 27th December, A. L. 5769, and descended from the Grand Master of Scotland.

On the 19th of June, A. L. 5792, a Grand Masonic Union was formed by the two Grand Lodges, and all distinction between Ancient and Modern Masons abolished.

We give below a list of the States in which there exists a Grand Lodge, date of institution, and also authority for such date:

[The marks in last column refer to foot-notes at the end of the list.]

States Having Gr. Lodge.	Date of Institution.		References to Foot-Notes.	
Alabama,	June	15, 1821.	. . .	*§
Arizona,	March	24, 1882.	. . .	†§
Arkansas,	February	22, 1832.	. . .	*
British Columbia,	December	27, 1871.	. . .	*
Canada,	October	10, 1855.	. . .	*
California.	April	19, 1850.	. . .	*
Colorado,	December	11, 1861.	. . .	§
Connecticut.	July	8, 1789.	. . .	*†§

States Having Gr. Lodge.	Date of Institution.	References to Foot-notes
Delaware,	June 6, 1806.	*†
Dist. of Columbia,	February 19, 1811.	*†§
Florida,	July 5, 1830.	*†
Georgia,	December 16, 1786.	*§
Idaho,	December 17, 1867.	†§
Illinois,	April 6, 1840.	†
Indiana,	January 12, 1818.	*†§
Indian Territory,	October 5, 1874.	*†§
Iowa,	January 8, 1844.	†§
Kansas,	March 17, 1856.	*
Kentucky,	October 8, 1800.	*
Louisiana,	July 20, 1812.	*
Maine,	June 1, 1820.	††§
Manitoba,	May 12, 1875.	*§
Maryland,	April 17, 1787.	*†§
Massachusetts,	July 30, 1733.	†§
Michigan,	July 31, 1826.	†§
Minnesota,	February 23, 1863.	*
Mississippi,	July 27, 1818.	*§
Missouri,	May 4, 1821.	†
Montana,	January 24, 1866.	††§
Nebraska,	September 23, 1857.	*†§
Nevada,	January 17, 1865.	†§
New Brunswick,	October 10, 1867.	††
New Hampshire,	July 8, 1789.	*†§
New Jersey,	December 18, 1786.	*†
New Mexico,	August 7, 1877.	*††§
New York,	September 5, 1781.	*†§
North Carolina,	December 12, 1777.	*
North Dakota,	June 12, 1889.	†§
Nova Scotia,	January 21, 1866.	Drummond.
Ohio,	January 7, 1808.	††§
Oregon,	September 15, 1851.	†§
Pennsylvania,	September 26, 1786.	††
Prince Edw. Island,	June 24, 1875.	*§
Quebec,	October 20, 1869.	*§
Rhode Island,	June 25, 1791.	†
South Dakota,	June 23, 1875.	†§
South Carolina,	March 24, 1787.	†§
Tennessee,	December 27, 1813.	†§
Texas,	December 20, 1837.	*†§
Utah,	January 17, 1872.	*§
Vermont,	October 13, 1794.	†§
Virginia,	October 13, 1778.	*†
Washington,	December 6, 1858.	†§

States Having Gr. Lodges.	Date of Institution.	References to Foot-notes.
West Virginia,	May 10, 1865.	. . . †‡§
Wisconsin,	December 18, 1848.	. . . *‡§
Wyoming,	December 11, 1874.	. . . †

AUTHORITY FOR ABOVE DATES:

- * Grand Secretary of the several Grand Lodges.
- † Proceedings of the several Grand Lodges.
- ‡ Mackey's History of Freemasonry.
- § History of Freemasonry and Concordant Orders.

BY-LAWS
OF
MERIDIAN LODGE, ANCIENT, FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS,
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS.

[ORDERED PRINTED BY A VOTE OF THE LODGE, MAY 20, 1891.]

1863 [Elected Oct. 21, '63]		JAMES H. PARKER, W. M.		[Installed Nov. 18, '63]		1864	
E. S. STEVENS, Sr. Warden;	Dec. 23, 1863,	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.	
NATH'L SMITH, Jr. Warden;	Dec. 23, 1863,	Jan. 20, 1864,	Feb. 20, 1864,	20, 1864,	Apr. 20, 1864,	† Mar. 1, 1882.	
J. B. FAIRBANKS, Sr. Steward;	Jan. 2, 1864,	Jan. 20, 1864,	Feb. 20, 1864,	20, 1864,	Dec. 20, 1883.		
I. K. FELCH, Jr. Steward;	Jan. 2, 1864,	Jan. 2, 1864,	Jan. 2, 1864,	2, 1864,	Apr. 20, 1864,	† Mar. 1, 1882.	
	Jan. 9, 1864,	Jan. 11, 1864,	Jan. 11, 1864,		May 18, 1861.	§ Oct. 28, 1868,	
Mark B. Babb.	Jan. 20, 1864,	Mar. 23, 1864,	May 4, 1864,		Apr. 13, 1870,		
Mark B. Babb.	Jan. 27, 1864,	Jan. 27, 1864,	Jan. 27, 1864,		June 15, 1864,	§ Apr. 17, 1872,	
Joseph Bartlett.	Jan. 30, 1864,	Feb. 6, 1864,	Feb. 6, 1864,		Mar. 23, 1864,		
Samuel Currier.	Feb. 17, 1864,	Mar. 30, 1864,	Apr. 20, 1864,		Mar. 23, 1864,	§ Mar. 8, 1865.	
John L. Parker.	Feb. 17, 1864,	Mar. 30, 1864,	Apr. 20, 1864,		May 18, 1864,	* Sept. 1872,	
John Gibbs.	Feb. 17, 1864,	Apr. 30, 1864,	Apr. 20, 1864,		May 18, 1864,		
Francis Z. Jenks.	Feb. 17, 1864,	Mar. 30, 1864,	Apr. 20, 1864,		May 18, 1864,	§ Nov. 5, 1884,	
Geo. E. Rockwood,*	Feb. 17, 1864,	Mar. 30, 1864,	Apr. 20, 1864,		May 18, 1864,	§ July 26, 1871,	
Henry C. Burnham.	Feb. 25, 1864,	Feb. 25, 1864,	Feb. 27, 1864,		Dec. 7, 1864,	† July 14, 1875,	
Isaac N. Hill.	Feb. 25, 1864,	Feb. 25, 1864,	Feb. 27, 1864,		Oct. 17, 1876,	* Apr. 27, 1887,	
Francis L. Ferren,	Feb. 25, 1864,	Feb. 25, 1864,	Feb. 27, 1864,		Dec. 7, 1864,		
Henry Daniels.	Mar. 5, 1864,	Mar. 8, 1864,	Mar. 8, 1864,		May 15, 1864,	† June 25, 1864,	
William A. Cutler.	Mar. 23, 1864,	Apr. 20, 1864,	May 18, 1864,		June 15, 1864,	* Oct. 17, 1872,	
William A. Cutler.	Mar. 23, 1864,	May 4, 1864,	May 18, 1864,		Aug. 17, 1864,	§ Apr. 21, 1879,	
Josiah A. Bean.	Mar. 23, 1864,	May 4, 1864,	May 18, 1864,				§ Demitted.
Samuel A. Bean,	Mar. 23, 1864,	May 4, 1864,	May 18, 1864,				
Linus Bliss,	Mar. 23, 1864,	May 4, 1864,	May 18, 1864,				
Henry W. Bragg,	Mar. 23, 1864,	May 4, 1864,	May 18, 1864,				

† Membership lost.

* Died.

TABLE—Concluded from Page 223.

1863]

[1864

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Edwin W. Cozzens.	Apr. 22, 1864.	April 22, 1864.	April 22, 1864.	June 15, 1864.	* May, 1874.
Ira O. Bullard.	Apr. 27, 1864.	May 24, 1864.	June 15, 1864.	July 13, 1864.	.
Amory H. Shattuck.	July 14, 1864.	July 14, 1864.	July 14, 1864.	Sept. 14, 1864.	§ Nov. 2, 1870.
Rev. W. M. Ayers.	Aug. 17, 1864.	Sept. 19, 1864.	Oct. 19, 1864.	Jan. 10, 1865.	§ Mar. 20, 1872.
George A. Reed.	Sept. 19, 1864.	Sept. 19, 1864.	Sept. 19, 1864.	Dec. 7, 1864.	Life member.
Charles W. Keating.	Oct. 19, 1864.	Oct. 19, 1864.	Oct. 19, 1864.	Dec. 7, 1864.	§ Aug. 14, 1867.
Marcus Knight.	Sept. 14, 1864.	Oct. 19, 1864.	.	.	.
Edward S. Balcom.	Sept. 14, 1864.	Oct. 19, 1864.	.	.	.
Robert H. Bruce.	Sept. 14, 1864.	Oct. 19, 1864.	.	.	.
Morris T. Ferren.*	.	.	.	June 15, 1864.	§ April, 1874.
A. Freeman Mason.	.	.	.	July 13, 1864.	§ July 14, 1875.
Joseph W. Paige.	.	.	.	Sept. 14, 1864.	* Jan. 23, 1892.
Rev. Horatio Alger.	.	.	.	Sept. 14, 1864.	* Nov. 1881.

1864	[Elected Oct. 12, '61]	MALACHI BABCOCK, W. M.	[Installed Nov. 9, '64]	1865
C. B. TRAVIS, Sr. Warden ;	I. N. HILL, Treasurer ;	J. N. BARTLETT, Sr. Deacon ;		
C. F. HERRING, Jr. Warden ;	HENRY W. BRAGG, Secretary ;	H. C. BURNHAM, Jr. Deacon ;		
E. W. COZZENS, Sr. Steward ;	Rev. HORATIO ALGER, Chaplain ;	H. B. HALL, Tyler.		
MORRIS T. FERREN, Jr. Steward ;	H. N. STOCKBRIDGE, Marshal ;			

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Marcus Knight,	.	.	Nov. 23, 1864.	Jan. 10, 1865.	§ Dec. 11, 1872.
Edward S. Balcom.*	.	.	Nov. 16, 1864.	Jan. 10, 1865.	§ May 31, 1876.

* Died.

† Membership lost.

§ Demitted.

Name.	TABLE—Concluded from Page 224.				[1865]	
	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.	
Robert H. Bruce.	Nov. 11, 1864.	Nov. 11, 1864.	Nov. 30, 1864.	Jan. 10, 1865.	Jan. 10, 1865.	June 27, 1866.
Alfred S. Hartwell,	Dec. 10, 1864.	Dec. 10, 1864.	Nov. 16, 1864.	Jan. 10, 1865.	Jan. 10, 1865.	Oct. 25, 1871.
Edgar Brown.	Dec. 14, 1864.	Dec. 14, 1864.	Dec. 10, 1864.	April 5, 1865.	April 5, 1865.	Mar. 5, 1879.
David J. Pierce.	Jan. 10, 1865.	Feb. 4, 1865.	Dec. 14, 1864.	May 15, 1865.	May 15, 1865.	Jan. 31, 1874.
Amos P. Cheney.	Feb. 8, 1865.	Mar. 8, 1865.	Mar. 8, 1865.	July 5, 1865.	July 5, 1865.	Life member.
John Collicott.	Feb. 27, 1865.	Mar. 27, 1865.	April 12, 1865.	June 12, 1865.	June 12, 1865.	July 17, 1872.
Enos B. Ferren.	April 5, 1865.	May 10, 1865.	Mar. 1, 1865.	Nov. 2, 1865.	Nov. 2, 1865.	Mar. 5, 1890.
Edm'd K. Alexander.	April 5, 1865.	May 10, 1865.	June 7, 1865.	April 5, 1865.	April 5, 1865.	June 23, 1869.
Augustus L. Ware.	May 10, 1865.	May 10, 1865.	June 7, 1865.	July 5, 1865.	July 5, 1865.	July 6, 1887.
Walter N. Mason.	July 19, 1865.	June 13, 1865.	July 5, 1865.	July 5, 1865.	July 5, 1865.	Apr. 17, 1872.
John B. Watkins.	July 19, 1865.	Aug. 2, 1865.	Sept. 6, 1865.	Aug. 2, 1865.	Aug. 2, 1865.	July 6, 1884.
William G. Ware.	Aug. 9, 1865.	Aug. 2, 1865.	Aug. 30, 1865.	Nov. 1, 1865.	Nov. 1, 1865.	Aug. 14, 1867.
William P. Green.	Aug. 9, 1865.	Sept. 6, 1865.	Oct. 18, 1865.	Oct. 4, 1865.	Oct. 4, 1865.	Jan. 28, 1883.
Fuller M. Babcock.	Aug. 9, 1865.	Sept. 6, 1865.	Oct. 18, 1865.	Nov. 29, 1865.	Nov. 29, 1865.	May 1, 1883.
Joseph S. Adams.	Aug. 30, 1865.	Oct. 10, 1865.	Nov. 1, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Jan. 1, 1883.
Rufus N. Bullard.	Oct. 10, 1865.	Nov. 7, 1865.	Nov. 1, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Jan. 1, 1883.
Ira Russell, M. D.	Oct. 10, 1865.	Nov. 7, 1865.	Nov. 1, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Jan. 1, 1883.
Ira Russell, M. D.	Oct. 10, 1865.	Nov. 7, 1865.	Nov. 1, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Jan. 1, 1883.

† Membership lost.

* Del.

§ Demitted.

1865 [Elected Oct. 14, '65]			JAMES H. PARKER. W. M.			[Installed Nov. 14, '65.] 1866		
C. B. TFAVIS, Sr. Warden;			I. N. HULL, Treasurer;			GEO. L. SLEEPER, Sr. Deacon.		
H. C. BURNHAM, Jr. Warden;			W. N. MASON, Secretary;			M. T. FERREN, Jr. Deacon,		
E. W. COZZENS, Sr. Steward;			Rev. W. M. AYER, Chaplain;			H. B. HALL, Tyler.		
F. Z. JENKS, Jr. Steward;			H. N. STOCKBRIDGE, Marshal;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.			
Rufus Nason Bullard.								
Abel A. Franklin,	Nov. 10, 1865, Dec.	5, 1865, Dec.	Nov. 29, 1865.	Dec. 27, 1865.	Life member.			
James L. Bickford,	Nov. 18, 1865, Dec.	5, 1865, Jan.	22, 1865.	Jan. 24, 1866.	\$June 8, 1870,			
Frank J. Howe,	Nov. 18, 1865, Dec.	5, 1865, Jan.	2, 1866.	Feb. 28, 1866.	†July 17, 1872.			
William H. Bent,	Dec. 12, 1865, Dec.	27, 1865, Jan.	2, 1866.	Feb. 28, 1866.	†July 17, 1872.			
James A. Bent.	Dec. 12, 1865, Dec.	27, 1865, Jan.	24, 1866.	Feb. 28, 1866.	.			
William Lovejoy,	Dec. 12, 1865, Dec.	27, 1865, Jan.	24, 1866.	Feb. 28, 1866.	.			
John Rockwood,	Jan. 9, 1866, Feb.	2, 1866, Mar.	3, 1866.	Apr. 25, 1866.	\$Apr. 10, 1889,			
John Rockwood,				Aug. 27, 1890.	Life member,			
William H. Bigelow.	Feb. 9, 1866, Feb.	17, 1866, Feb.	17, 1866.	Mar. 28, 1866.	.			
Albert H. Thwing.	Feb. 28, 1866, Mar.	28, 1866, Apr.	25, 1866.	Apr. 25, 1866.	†July 9, 1873,			
Marcellus A. Ware.	Feb. 28, 1866, Mar.	28, 1866, Apr.	25, 1866.	Apr. 25, 1866.	.			
Theodore L. Sawin,	Feb. 28, 1866, Mar.	28, 1866, Apr.	25, 1866.	Apr. 25, 1866.	.			
Francis Bigelow,	Mar. 3, 1866, Mar.	28, 1866, Apr.	28, 1866.	Apr. 28, 1866.	\$July 10, 1889.			
Oliver Woods,	Mar. 3, 1866, Mar.	28, 1866, Apr.	28, 1866.	Apr. 28, 1866.	.			
Lorenzo French,	Mar. 3, 1866, Mar.	28, 1866, Apr.	28, 1866.	Apr. 28, 1866.	\$July 21, 1880,			
Pardon L. Portor,	Mar. 3, 1866, Mar.	28, 1866, Apr.	28, 1866.	Apr. 28, 1866.	\$Nov. 6, 1867,			
Edwin Coolidge.	Mar. 3, 1866, Mar.	28, 1866, Apr.	25, 1866.	Apr. 28, 1866.	†June 22, 1874.			
L. E. Partridge, M.D.,	May 2, 1866, May	30, 1866, June	27, 1866.	June 27, 1866.	*Dec. 26, 1870,			
Franklin B. Tilton.	May 23, 1866, June	27, 1866, July	25, 1866.	July 25, 1866.	.			
Henry W. Kendall.	June 13, 1866, June	27, 1866, July	6, 1866.	July 6, 1866.	\$Feb. 21, 1877.			
* Died.					† Membership lost.			
					§ Demitted.			

1865] TABLE—Concluded from Page 226. [1866

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
G. J. Townsend, M.D.,	—, 1858.	—, 1858.	June 27, 1866.	June 27, 1866.	.
Joseph O. Bullard,	July 25, 1866.	.	.	.	.
Joseph H. Watson.	.	.	.	July 25, 1866.	* Jan. 1880.
1866 [Elected Oct. 17, 1866]	JAMES H. PARKER, W. M.	[Installed Oct. 31, 1866]	1867		
H. C. BURNHAM, Sr. Warden ;	I. N. HULL, Treasurer ;		M. T. FERREN, Sr. Deacon ;		
M. B. BABB, Jr. Warden ;	E. W. COZZENS, Secretary ;		F. Z. JENKS, Jr. Deacon ;		
EDWIN COOLIDGE, Sr. Steward ;	Rev. W. M. AVER, Chaplain ;		H. B. HALL, Tyler.		
A. A. FRANKLIN, Jr. Steward ;	C. A. DAVIS, Marshall ;				
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Charles F. Beard,	Nov. 21, 1866.	Dec. 19, 1866.	Jan. 28, 1867.	Jan. 28, 1867.	+ Feb. 5, 1879.
E. G. C. Thompson,*	Nov. 21, 1866.	Dec. 19, 1866.	Jan. 16, 1867.	Jan. 16, 1867.	* Nov. 14, 1877.
Stephen E. Babb,	Jan. 28, 1867.	Feb. 13, 1867.	Mar. 20, 1867.	Mar. 20, 1867.	* Sept. 15, 1871.
Ira P. Ferren.	April 17, 1867.	May 15, 1867.	June 12, 1867.	June 12, 1867.	* Mar. 4, 1868.
Charles E. Rockwood,	April 17, 1867.	May 15, 1867.	June 12, 1867.	June 12, 1867.	* Feb. 21, 1877.
William H. Wright,	May 1, 1867.	May 15, 1867.	June 12, 1867.	June 12, 1867.	* Dec. 16, 1889.
William K. Hills.	May 22, 1867.	June 19, 1867.	July 10, 1867.	July 10, 1867.	* May 30, 1890.
Charles L. Hosmer.	June 19, 1867.	July 17, 1867.	Sept. 11, 1867.	Oct. 19, 1867.	.
William Crosby,	June 19, 1867.	July 17, 1867.	Aug. 14, 1867.	Sept. 11, 1867.	.
Robert H. Randall,	June 19, 1867.	July 17, 1867.	Aug. 28, 1867.	Sept. 11, 1867.	.
Gustavus Smith,	June 19, 1867.	July 17, 1867.	Aug. 28, 1867.	Sept. 11, 1867.	* Apr. 10, 1889.
Edward L. Ward,	July 17, 1867.	Aug. 28, 1867.	Oct. 23, 1867.	Oct. 23, 1869.	* Feb. 1, 1871.

† Membership lost.

* Demitted.

* Died.

1868 [Elected Oct. 28, 1868]		JAMES H. PARKER, W. M. [Installed Nov. 19, 1868]		1869	
H. C. BURNHAM, Sr. Warden ;	L. R. EDGERTON, Treasurer ;	L. R. MITCHELL, Sr. Deacon ;			
F. Z. JENKS, Jr. Warden ;	E. W. COZZENS, Secretary ;	E. K. ALEXANDER, Sr. Deacon ;			
E. G. C. THOMPSON, Sr. Stew'd ;	Rev. HORATIO ALGER, Chap. ;	F. M. BARCOCK, Tyler.			
OLIVER WOOD, Jr. Steward ;	W. H. WRIGHT, Marshal ;				
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
George B. Dowse,	Nov. 11, 1868, Dec.	2, 1868, Dec.	Nov. 25, 1868, Dec.	Nov. 25, 1868, Dec.	1877, June.
Alb't H. Bryant, M.D.	Nov. 11, 1868, Dec.	2, 1868, Dec.	23, 1868, Dec.	23, 1868, Dec.	1877, Mar. 12, 1873,
Edward Perry.*	Dec. 30, 1868, Jan.	27, 1869, Feb.	24, 1869, Feb.	24, 1869, Feb.	1893, Jan. 16, 1893.
Aaron Wheeler,	Dec. 30, 1868, Feb.	17, 1869, Feb.	24, 1869, Feb.	24, 1869, Feb.	1869, Mar. 28, 1888.
James Phillips,	Jan. 27, 1869, March	3, 1869, March	24, 1869, March	24, 1869, March	1869, Nov. 1, 1876,
Samuel O. Daniels,	Feb. 3, 1869, April	7, 1869, April	21, 1869, April	21, 1869, April	1876, Nov. 1, 1876,
Bradley B. Chandler,	March 3, 1869, April	7, 1869, April	21, 1869, April	21, 1869, April	1869, May 5, 1869,
William J. Hobbs,	March 3, 1869, April	7, 1869, April	5, 1869, May	5, 1869, May	1869, May 5, 1869,
Charles W. Gleason,	March 3, 1869, April	7, 1869, April	5, 1869, May	5, 1869, May	1869, Sept. 15, 1869,
D. H. L. Gleason,	June 2, 1869, July	28, 1869, Sept.	15, 1869, Sept.	15, 1869, Sept.	1883, Aug. 1, 1883.
Joseph E. Sanger,	July 28, 1869, Aug.	25, 1869, Sept.	15, 1869, Sept.	15, 1869, Sept.	1869, Nov. 1, 1876.
Chas. H. Whitcomb,	Aug. 25, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	1876, June 8, 1870, Apr. 22, 1891.
Stephen D. Hazen,*	Sept. 1, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	1891, June 8, 1870, Apr. 22, 1891.
Samuel B. Blethen,*	Sept. 1, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	1891, June 8, 1870, Apr. 22, 1891.
Jerome E. Cross,	Sept. 1, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	1891, June 8, 1870, Apr. 22, 1891.
Jerome E. Cross.	Sept. 1, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	4, 1869, Nov.	1891, June 8, 1870, Apr. 22, 1891.

* Died.

† Membership lost.

§ Demitted.

1869 [Elected Oct. 20, 1869] HENRY C. BURNHAM, W. M. [Installed Nov. 16, 1869] 1870

J. N. HILL, Jr. Steward; L. R. EDGERTON, Treasurer; L. R. MITCHELL, Sr. Deacon;
 F. B. TILTON, Sr. Steward; E. W. COZZENS, Secretary; E. K. ALEXANDER, Jr. Deacon;
 F. Z. JENKS, Sr. Warden; Rev. H. ALGER, Chaplain; WILLIAM CROSBY, Tyler.
 M. T. FERREN, Jr. Warden; C. A. DAVIS, Marshal;

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Stephen D. Hazen,	.	.	Dec. 1, 1869,	1, 1869,	\$Nov. 2, 1870,
Samuel B. Blethen,	.	.	Dec. 15, 1869,	15, 1869,	\$Feb. 21, 1872,
Samuel B. Blethen.	.	.	.	Nov. 18, 1874,	\$July 21, 1880,
Theodore T. Hanks.	Oct. 26, 1869,	Dec. 1, 1869,	Dec. 15, 1879,	15, 1869,	\$May 19, 1878,
William Taylor.	Oct. 26, 1869,	Nov. 17, 1869,	Dec. 15, 1869,	Dec. 15, 1869,	*Aug. 16, 1881,
Calvin Dunn.	Nov. 24, 1869,	Dec. 22, 1869,	Jan. 12, 1870,	Jan. 12, 1870,	*Mar. 28, 1877,
Eugene S. Rogers,	Nov. 24, 1869,	Dec. 22, 1869,	Jan. 12, 1870,	Jan. 12, 1870,	*Jan. 11, 1883,
Sumner H. Parker,	Dec. 29, 1869,	Jan. 21, 1870,	Feb. 9, 1870,	Feb. 9, 1870,	*May 28, 1886,
William W. Cobb,	Dec. 29, 1869,	Jan. 21, 1870,	Feb. 9, 1870,	Feb. 9, 1870,	.
David Paine,	Jan. 26, 1870,	Feb. 16, 1870,	Apr. 13, 1870,	Apr. 13, 1870,	†Jan. 5, 1887,
Jacob J. Seifer,	Jan. 26, 1870,	Feb. 23, 1870,	Mar. 16, 1870,	Mar. 16, 1870,	Life member.
James W. Morse,	May 11, 1870,	June 8, 1870,	July 6, 1870,	July 6, 1870,	†Apr. 22, 1891,
William G. Waters.	May 18, 1870,	June 8, 1870,	July 6, 1870,	July 6, 1870,	\$Jan. 20, 1880,
Newton L. Turner.	June 15, 1870,	Sept. 30, 1870,	Sept. 19, 1888,	Sept. 19, 1888,	.
Frank F. Wright,	July 13, 1870,	Aug. 10, 1870,	Sept. 7, 1870,	Sept. 7, 1870,	. +1892,
Rev. Stephen E. Root.	Aug. 24, 1870,	Sept. 21, 1870,	Oct. 19, 1870,	Oct. 19, 1870,	\$April 5, 1876,
James H. Wright.	.	.	.	Nov. 17, 1870,	.
Silas H. Bent,	.	.	.	Jan. 12, 1870,	.
William A. Cate.	.	.	.	June 8, 1870,	†Feb. 5, 1879,
George B. Cochran,	.	.	.	June 8, 1870,	†Oct. 17, 1877,

\$ Demitted.

† Membership lost.

* Died.

1870 [Elected Oct. 5, 1870]		HENRY C. BURNHAM, W. M.		[Installed Nov. 7, 1870]		1871
L. R. MITCHELL, Sr. Warden ;		L. R. EDGERTON, Treasurer ;		E. W. COZZENS, Sr. Deacon ;		
W. H. WRIGHT, Jr. Warden ;		E. T. TURNER, Secretary ;		S. H. BENT, Jr. Deacon ;		
B. B. CHANDLER, Sr. Steward ;		Rev. S. E. ROOT, Chaplain ;		E. P. BUTLER, Tyler.		
F. F. WRIGHT, Jr. Steward ;		C. A. DAVIS, Marshal ;				
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.	
William Nutt,	Dec. 7, 1870,	4, 1871, Feb.	1, 1871, Feb.	1, 1871.	.	
James M. Forbush,	Feb. 8, 1871, Mar.	1, 1871, Apr.	5, 1871, Apr.	14, 1871.	.	
William F. Shattuck.	Feb. 8, 1871, Mar.	1, 1871, Apr.	5, 1871, Apr.	5, 1871.	.	
Albert B. Lyon,	Mar. 15, 1871, Apr.	11, 1871, May	3, 1871, May	3, 1871.	.	
James H. Waite,	Mar. 15, 1871, Apr.	11, 1871, May	3, 1871, May	3, 1871.	.	
Willard W. Wight,	Mar. 15, 1871, June	3, 1871, June	3, 1871, July	9, 1873.	.	
George A. Leach,	Mar. 15, 1871, Apr.	11, 1871, May	3, 1871, May	3, 1871.	.	
George B. Whitney.	Apr. 14, 1871, May	10, 1871, May	31, 1871, May	31, 1871,* July,	1878.	
Charles F. Blandin.	Apr. 14, 1871, May	10, 1871, May	31, 1871, May	31, 1871.	.	
James A. Ambler,	Apr. 14, 1871, May	10, 1871, May	31, 1871, May	31, 1871.	.	
Alfred H. Bryant,	Apr. 14, 1871, May	10, 1871, May	31, 1871, May	31, 1871.	.	
Ambrose Bryant,	Apr. 14, 1871, May	10, 1871, May	31, 1871, May	31, 1871.	.	
Ira E. Bowker,	May 17, 1871, June	7, 1871, July	12, 1871, July	12, 1871.	.	
W. W. Hemenway,	May 17, 1871, June	7, 1871, July	12, 1871, July	12, 1871, †Feb. 5, 1879,		
Charles F. Paine.	May 17, 1871, June	7, 1871, July	12, 1871, Aug.	2, 1871, †Feb. 13, 1878,		
William W. Waite,	June 7, 1871, July	12, 1871, Aug.	2, 1871, Aug.	2, 1871, †Aug. 27, 1879.		
Edwin Brown,	Aug. 30, 1871, Nov.	21, 1871,	.	.	.	
Edwin Emerson,	Aug. 30, 1871, Sept.	27, 1871,	.	.	.	
Micah Hobbs,	.	.	.	Dec. 7, 1870, † July 14, 1875,		
Micah Hobbs,	.	.	.	Nov. 1, 1876,* May 17, 1871.		
* Died.						
† Membership lost.						
§ Demitted.						

§ Demitted.

† Membership lost.

* Died.

TABLE—Concluded from Page 231.

[1871

1870]

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
J. H. Rogers,	.	.	.	Aug. 2, 1871,	Aug. 27, 1879,
E. A. Wood,	.	.	.	Apr. 2, 1871,	
John W. Carter,	.	.	.	Nov. 22, 1871,	† May 23, 1876,
John W. Carter,	.	.	.	July 5, 1876,	§ Jan. 8, 1879,
Frank P. Simonds,	.	.	.	Nov. 22, 1871,	§ Apr. 22, 1891,
1871 [Elected Oct. 25, 1871]	HENRY C. BURNHAM, W. M.	[Installed Nov. 22, 1871]	1872		
L. R. MITCHELL, Sr. Warden;	C. W. GLEASON, Secretary;	S. H. BENT, Jr. Deacon;			
W. H. WRIGHT, Jr. Warden;	Rev. S. E. ROOT, Chaplain;	* GEO. B. WHITNEY, Ins. Sent'l;			
F. F. WRIGHT, Sr. Steward.	C. A. DAVIS, Marshal;	* W. D. PAULIN, Organist;			
EDGAR BROWN, Jr. Steward;	E. W. COZZENS, Sr. Deacon;	E. P. BUTLER, Tyler.			
L. R. EDBERTON, Treasurer;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Edwin Brown,	.	.	Nov. 22, 1871,	Nov. 22, 1871,	
Edwin Emerson.	.	.	Nov. 22, 1871,	Nov. 22, 1871,	† June 12, 1889,
Steph. A. Sweetland,	Dec. 20, 1871,	Jan. 24, 1872,	Feb. 21, 1872,	Feb. 21, 1872,	Life member.
Albert A. Fiske,	Jan. 3, 1872,	Feb. 7, 1872,	Mar. 20, 1872,	Mar. 20, 1872,	
George V. Kemp,	Feb. 7, 1872,	Feb. 28, 1872,	Mar. 20, 1872,	Mar. 20, 1872,	§ Apr. 21, 1880,
Alexander T. Smith,	Feb. 28, 1872,	Apr. 3, 1872,	May 1, 1872,	May 1, 1872,	* Feb'y, 1876,
Alfred C. Loker,	Feb. 28, 1872,	Apr. 3, 1872,	May 1, 1872,	May 1, 1872,	
Alonzo Miles,	May 22, 1872,	June 19, 1872,	July 17, 1872,	July 17, 1872,	
Jos. A. Underwood,	May 29, 1872,	June 26, 1872,	July 17, 1872,	July 17, 1872,	
Vorestus Ware,	June 26, 1872,	July 24, 1872,	Aug. 14, 1872,	Aug. 14, 1872,	

* First appointment to these positions in Meridian Lodge.

† Dead.

‡ Membership lost.

§ Demitted.

TABLE—Concluded from Page 232. [1871] [1872]

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Theodore E. Walcott,	June 26, 1872,	July 24, 1872,	Aug. 14, 1872,	Aug. 14, 1872,	*October 1877,
Alexander Hoyt.	July 24, 1872,	Aug. 21, 1872,	Sept. 11, 1872,	Sept. 11, 1872,	§Nov. 29, 1876,
Nathan H. Taylor.	Aug. 21, 1872,	Oct. 23, 1872,	.	.	.
George M. Barker.	Sept. 18, 1872,	Oct. 23, 1872,	.	.	.
Thos. F. Hammond,	.	.	.	Dec. 11, 1872,	*Feb. 25, 1885,
1872 [Elected Oct. 16, 1872]	WILLIAM H. WRIGHT, W. M.	[Installed Oct. 23, 1872]	1873		
E. W. Cozzens, Sr. Warden;	C. W. GLEASON, Secretary;		GEO. B. WHITNEY, Jr. Deacon;		
D. H. L. GLEASON, Jr. Warden;	Rev. H. ALGER, Chaplain;		C. F. BARCOCK, Ins. Sentinel;		
F. F. WRIGHT, Sr. Steward;	C. A. DAVIS, Marshal;		DAVID PAINE, Organist;		
EDGAR BROWN, Jr. Steward;	S. H. BENT, Sr. Deacon;		E. P. BUTLER, Tyler.		
L. R. EDGERTON, Treasurer;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Nathan H. Taylor,	.	.	Dec. 11, 1872,	Feb. 12, 1873,	§Dec. 20, 1890,
George M. Barker,	.	.	Dec. 11, 1872,	Dec. 11, 1872,	.
Elisha P. Hollis,	Nov. 20, 1872,	Dec. 18, 1872,	Jan. 8, 1873,	Jan. 8, 1873,	.
Willard F. Hutchins,	Jan. 22, 1873,	Feb. 12, 1873,	Mar. 12, 1873,	Mar. 12, 1873,	*Sept'r, 1873,
William C. Freeman,	Apr. 9, 1873,	May 7, 1873,	June 4, 1873,	June 4, 1873,	†Mar. 1, 1882,
William C. Freeman,	.	.	May 3, 1882,	May 3, 1882,	.
Oscar S. Walker,	Apr. 17, 1873,	May 7, 1873,	June 4, 1873,	June 4, 1873,	.
George C. Fairbanks,	Oct. 15, 1873,	.	.	.	.
Warren A. Bird,	Sept. 3, 1873,	.	.	.	.
Charles W. Emerson,*	.	.	.	.	.
Andrew J. Nichols,	.	.	.	Mar. 20, 1873,	.
* Died.	.	.	.	Aug. 27, 1873,	Demitted.
					† Membership Lost.

1873 [Elected Oct. 1, 1873]		WILLIAM H. WRIGHT, W. M. [Installed Oct. 15, 1873]		1874	
E. W. COZZENS, Sr. Warden;	C. W. GLEASON, Secretary;	F. F. WRIGHT, Jr. Deacon;			
D. H. L. GLEASON, Jr. Warden;	Rev. H. ALGER, Chaplain;	O. S. WALKER, Ins. Sentinel;			
S. A. SWEETLAND, Sr. Steward;	A. J. NICHOLS, Marshal;	W. D. PARLIN, Organist;			
J. H. ROGERS, Jr. Steward;	S. H. BENT, Sr. Deacon;	C. F. BABCOCK, Tyler.			
E. P. HOLLIS, Treasurer;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
George C. Fairbanks,	.	Nov. 5, 1873, Dec.	3, 1873, Dec.	3, 1873.	.
Warren A. Bird,	.	Nov. 5, 1873, Dec.	3, 1873, Dec.	3, 1873.	.
William J. Maddox,	Dec. 31, 1873,	Feb. 25, 1874, Apr.	1, 1874, Apr.	1, 1874, †Feb.	5, 1879,
William J. Maddox,	.	.	.	Mar. 21, 1888,	§Mar. 21, 1888.
Edward H. Wilson,	Apr. 8, 1874, June	3, 1874, June	24, 1874, June	24, 1874,	.
George M. Smith,	Apr. 29, 1874, June	3, 1874, June	24, 1874, June	24, 1874, †Feb.	5, 1879,
George M. Smith,	.	.	.	Jan. 5, 1887,	.
Luther A. Titus,	Apr. 29, 1874, June	3, 1874, June	24, 1874, June	24, 1874, †Jan.	25, 1888.
Royal B. Wright,	July 22, 1874, Aug.	26, 1874, Sept.	23, 1874, Sept.	23, 1874,	.
Frank E. McCutchins,	July 22, 1874, Aug.	26, 1874, Sept.	23, 1874, Sept.	23, 1874, †Aug.	27, 1879,
Martin Hoff,	July 22, 1874, Aug.	26, 1874, Sept.	23, 1874, Sept.	23, 1874,	.
James H. Wright,	.	.	.	Apr. 29, 1874,	.
James Downs,	.	.	.	Apr. 1, 1874,	.
William K. Tucker,	.	.	.	Aug. 6, 1874, †May	31, 1876,
M. E. Haradon,	.	.	.	Apr. 1, 1874,	.
S. B. Blethen.	.	.	.	Nov. 18, 1874, §July	21, 1880.
* Died.					† Membership lost.
					§ Demitted.

§ Demitted.

† Membership lost.

* Died.

1874 [Elected Oct. 21, 1874]		D. H. L. GLEASON, W. M.		[Installed Nov. 18, 1874] 1875	
S. H. BENT, Sr. Warden;		C. W. GLEASON, Secretary;		S. A. SWEETLAND, Jr. Deacon;	
JAS. M. FOURCSE, Jr. Warden;		Rev. H. ALGER, Chaplain;		O. S. WALKER, Ins. Sentinel;	
W. A. BIRD, Sr. Steward;		G. B. WHITNEY, Marshal;		W. D. PARLIN, Organist;	
W. W. WRIGHT, Jr. Steward;		C. F. BABCOCK, Sr. Deacon;		R. B. WRIGHT, Tyler.	
C. W. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Aaron Bellam.	Feb. 17, 1875.	June 16, 1875.	July 14, 1875.	July 14, 1875.	.
William H. Carrier,	Mar. 17, 1875.	June 16, 1875.	Aug. 11, 1875.	Aug. 11, 1875.	.
Frank C. Perry.	June 23, 1875.	July 2, 1875.	Sept. 15, 1875.	Sept. 15, 1875.	.
Elbridge M. Phipps,	June 23, 1875.	July 2, 1875.	Sept. 15, 1875.	Sept. 15, 1875.	.
Henry L. Sawyer,	June 23, 1875.	Sept. 29, 1875.	.	.	July 12, 1888.
George E. Bliss.	Aug. 25, 1875.	Sept. 29, 1875.	.	.	.
Royal T. Brooks.	Aug. 25, 1875.	Sept. 29, 1875.	.	.	.
J. W. C. Downes.	.	.	.	.	.
Rosalba J. Fox.	.	.	.	July 14, 1875.	.
Timothy W. Willard.	.	.	.	July 14, 1875.	.
	.	.	.	July 14, 1875.	.
* Died.				† Membership lost.	
				‡ Denitted.	

1875 [Elected Oct. 13, 1875]		GEORGE J. TOWNSEND, W. M. [Installed Oct. 27, 1875]		1876	
SILAS H. BENT, Sr. Warden;	A. P. CHENEY, Secretary;	S. A. SWEETLAND, Jr. Deacon;			
J. M. FORBUSH, Jr. Warden;	Rev. H. ALGER, Chaplain;	JAMES DOWNS, Ins. Sentinel;			
W. A. BIRD, Sr. Steward;	G. B. WHITNEY, Marshal;	_____, Organist;			
W. J. MADDOX, Jr. Steward;	C. F. BABCOCK, Sr. Deacon;	Wor. MALACHI BABCOCK, Tyler.			
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Henry L. Sawyer,	.	.	Nov. 10, 1875,	Nov. 10, 1875,	\$ June 20, 1877,
George E. Bliss,	.	.	Nov. 10, 1875,	Nov. 10, 1875,	.
Royal T. Brooks,	.	.	Nov. 10, 1875,	Nov. 10, 1875,	* June 13, 1888,
Edward B. Smith,	Dec. 8, 1875,	Jan. 5, 1876,	Feb. 9, 1876,	Feb. 9, 1876,	.
Ralph Bent,	Nov. 24, 1875,	Jan. 5, 1876,	Mar. 8, 1876,	Mar. 8, 1876,	.
Marshall L. Eaton,	Nov. 24, 1875,	Jan. 5, 1876,	Feb. 9, 1876,	Feb. 9, 1876,	.
Frank W. Shattuck,	Dec. 22, 1875,	Feb. 16, 1876,	Mar. 8, 1876,	Mar. 8, 1876,	† Apr. 22, 1891,
James S. Gordon,	Dec. 8, 1875,	Jan. 5, 1876,	Feb. 9, 1876,	Feb. 9, 1876,	.
Charles H. Child,	Jan. 19, 1876,	Feb. 16, 1876,	Mar. 8, 1876,	Mar. 8, 1876,	.
Frederick H. Ripley,	Jan. 19, 1876,	Feb. 16, 1876,	Mar. 8, 1876,	Mar. 8, 1876,	.
Rev. J. P. Sheafe Jr.,	Feb. 23, 1876,	Apr. 5, 1876,	May 3, 1876,	May 3, 1876,	.
Nathl W. Whitcomb,	July 5, 1876,	.	.	.	.
Francis H. Pratt,	Mar. 22, 1876,	May 10, 1876,	May 31, 1876,	May 31, 1876,	.
Charles A. Pook	Apr. 19, 1876,	May 10, 1876,	May 31, 1876,	May 31, 1876,	.
John Auld,	Apr. 19, 1876,	May 10, 1876,	May 31, 1876,	May 31, 1876,	.
Elhanan W. Morrill,	Aug. 21, 1876,	Aug. 30, 1876,	Sept. 27, 1876,	Sept. 27, 1876,	† Apr. 22, 1891,
David F. Rogers,	Aug. 21, 1876,	Aug. 30, 1876,	Sept. 27, 1876,	Sept. 27, 1876,	.
Lowell A. Beckwith,	Aug. 21, 1876,	Aug. 30, 1876,	Sept. 27, 1876,	Sept. 27, 1876,	.
Darwin E. Wheeler.	Aug. 21, 1876,	Aug. 30, 1876,	Sept. 27, 1876,	Sept. 27, 1876,	† Apr. 22, 1891,

§ Demitted.

† Membership lost.

* Died.

1876 [* Elected Nov. 1, 1876] †GEO. J. TOWNSEND, W. M. [Installed Nov. 22, 1876] 1877
 SILAS H. BENT, Sr. Warden; A. P. CHENEY, Secretary; S. A. SWEETLAND, Jr. Deacon;
 JAMES M. FORBUSH, Jr. Warden; REV. J. P. SHEAFE, Jr., Chapl'n; JAMES DOWNS, Ins. Sentinel;
 L. A. BECKWITH, Sr. Steward; GEO. B. WHITNEY, Marshal; FRANK H. PRATT, Organist;
 CHARLES A. POOK, Jr. Steward; C. F. BARCOCK, Sr. Deacon; Wm. MALACHI BARCOCK, Tyler.
 C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
William E. Crosby,	Nov. 29, 1876,	Dec. 27, 1877,	Jan. 24, 1877,	Jan. 24, 1877,	.
Chas. W. Messenger,	Nov. 29, 1876,	Dec. 27, 1877,	Jan. 24, 1877,	Jan. 24, 1877,	.
Charles W. Burks.	Jan. 19, 1877,	Feb. 21, 1877,	Mar. 28, 1877,	Mar. 28, 1877,	.
John C. Whitney.	Mar. 7, 1877,	April 25, 1877,	May 23, 1877,	May 23, 1877,	.
Walter E. Rawson,	May 2, 1877,	June 25, 1877,	July 18, 1877,	July 18, 1877,	.
Franklin L. Start,	May 2, 1877,	June 25, 1877,	.	.	.
James Ryan,	Aug. 22, 1877,	Sept. 19, 1877,	.	.	.
Charles H. Lane,	Aug. 22, 1877,	Sept. 19, 1877,	.	.	.
Nath'l W. Whitcomb,	.	Dec. 27, 1876,	July 18, 1877,	July 18, 1877,	.
Wm. Edw. Richards,	.	.	.	May 2, 1877,	\$Aug. 3, 1881.
Charles Q. Tirrell,	.	.	.	Oct. 20, 1877,	.
James T. Johnston,	.	.	.	Aug. 22, 1877,	.
Levi E. Ferren.	.	.	.	Sept. 19, 1877,	\$June 8, 1881.

* No meeting in October.

† D. D. G. M. Fourth Masonic Dist. 1878-80.

\$ Demitted.

1877	[Elected Oct. 17, 1877]	SILAS H. BENT, W. M.	[Installed Oct. 25, 1877]	1878
JAS. M. FORBUSH, Sr. Warden ;	C. W. BURKS, Secretary ;			(C. A. POOK, Jr. Deacon ;
C. F. BARCOCK, Jr. Warden ;	Rev. J. P. SHEAFE, Jr., Chapl'n ;			JAMES DOWNS, Ins. Sentinel ;
JOHN C. WHITNEY, Sr. Steward ;	Wor. D. H. L. GLEASON, Marsh'l ;			F. H. PRATT, Organist ;
W. E. RAWSON, Jr. Steward ;	L. A. BECKWITH, Sr. Deacon ;			F. F. WRIGHT, Tyler.
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer ;				

† Membership lost.

§ Demitted.

* Died.

1877] TABLE—Concluded from Page 238. [1878

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Lewellin L. Howe,	July 17, 1878,	Aug. 14, 1878,	Sept. 18, 1878,	Sept. 18, 1878,	.
James H. Gilligan,	July 17, 1878,	Aug. 14, 1878,	Sept. 18, 1878,	Sept. 18, 1878,	.
William Murray,	July 17, 1878,	Aug. 14, 1878,	Sept. 18, 1878,	Sept. 18, 1878,	.
Thomas Curry,	Aug. 7, 1878,	Sept. 4, 1878,	Oct. 3, 1878,	Oct. 3, 1878,	.
Geo. H. Danforth,	Aug. 7, 1878,	Sept. 4, 1878,	Sept. 4, 1878,	Sept. 4, 1878,	\$Sept. 24 1879.
Reuben R. Wright,	Sept. 11, 1878,	Oct. 24, 1878,	.	.	.
Joseph Wilde,	.	.	.	Aug. 7, 1878,	\$Apr. 22, 1891,
Geo. H. Jackson.	.	.	.	Mar. 13, 1878,	.
1878 [Elected Oct. 9, 1878]	SILAS H. BENT.	W. M.	[Installed Oct. 24, 1878]	1879	
L. A. BECKWITH, Sr. Warden ;	C. W. BURKS, Secretary ;		H. T. PHIPPS, Jr. Deacon ;		
E. H. WILSON, Jr. Warden ;	Rev. J. P. SHEAFE Jr., Chap'n ;		AARON BELLAM, Ins. Sentinel ;		
CHAS. C. HENRY, Sr. Steward ;	Wor. D. H. L. GLEASON, Marsh'l ;		F. H. PRATT, Organist ;		
S. H. WHITCOMB, Jr. Steward ;	C. J. WOODS, Sr. Deacon ;		F. F. WRIGHT, Tyler.		
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer†					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Reuben R. Wright.	Nov. 6, 1878,	Dec. 4, 1878,	Nov. 27, 1878,	Nov. 27, 1878,	.
Wm. B. H. Dowse.	Mar. 12, 1879,	Apr. 8, 1879,	Feb. 5, 1879,	Feb. 5, 1879,	\$Feb. 6, 1884.
Abijah Foksett,	Mar. 12, 1879,	Apr. 8, 1879,	May 7, 1879,	May 7, 1879,	.
Wm. J. Stowell.	Mar. 12, 1879,	Apr. 8, 1879,	May 7, 1879,	May 7, 1879,	.
Harvey H. Whitney,	Mar. 12, 1879,	Apr. 8, 1879,	May 7, 1879,	May 7, 1879,	.
Frank H. Hall,	May 14, 1879,	June 18, 1879,	July 16, 1879,	July 16, 1879,	.
Franklin H. Bigwood,	Sept. 24, 1879,	.	.	May 7, 1879,	.
Albert Bugbee,	.	.	.	.	\$ Demitted.

† Membership lost.

* Died.

1879 [Elected Oct. 29, 1879] SILAS H. BENT, W. M. [Installed Nov. 26, 1879] 1880

E. H. WILSON, Sr. Warden; CHAS. C. HENRY, Secretary; S. H. WHITCOMB, Jr. Deacon;

C. J. WOODS, Jr. Warden; Rev. J. P. SHEAFE, Jr., Chapl'n; AARON BELLAM, Ins. Sentinel;

JAMES DOWNS, Sr. Steward; Wm. D. H. L. GLEASON, Marshal; F. H. PRATT, Organist;

F. H. HALL, Jr. Steward; J. C. WHITNEY, Sr. Deacon; F. F. WRIGHT, Tyler.

C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Franklin H. Bigwood,	.	Nov. 26, 1879,	Dec. 24, 1879,	Dec. 24, 1879,	.
Frederick Lewis,	Jan. 21, 1880,	Mar. 10, 1880,	April 7, 1880,	April 7, 1880,	.
Wm. H. Fitzgerald,	Jan. 21, 1880,	Mar. 10, 1880,	April 7, 1880,	April 7, 1880,	† Jan. 5, 1887,
Frederick W. Morse,	Mar. 10, 1880,	April 21, 1880,	May 19, 1880,	May 19, 1880,	† June 12, 1888,
Arthur W. Palmer,	Mar. 31, 1880,	April 28, 1880,	June 9, 1880,	June 9, 1880,	.
Wm. C. Bellam,	Mar. 31, 1880,	April 28, 1880,	June 9, 1880,	June 9, 1880,	.
Edgar S. Dodge,	Mar. 31, 1880,	April 28, 1880,	June 9, 1880,	June 9, 1880,	.
Irving E. Glidden,	Apr. 28, 1880,	June 2, 1880,	June 30, 1880,	June 30, 1880,	.
Henry G. Wood,	Apr. 28, 1880,	June 2, 1880,	June 30, 1880,	June 30, 1880,	.
Henry K. Ricker,	Apr. 28, 1880,	June 2, 1880,	June 30, 1880,	June 30, 1880,	† June 12, 1889,
Herbert W. Atherton,	May 26, 1880,	July 21, 1880,	Sept. 15, 1880,	Sept. 15, 1880,	.
Charles Storer,	.	.	Oct. 13, 1880,	Oct. 13, 1880,	.

• Died.

† Membership lost.

§ Demitted.

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
George H. Mills,	Jan. 12, 1881,	Feb. 9, 1881,	Apr. 13, 1881,	Apr. 13, 1881,	.
Frederick Reed,	Mar. 9, 1881,	May 11, 1881,	June 8, 1881,	June 8, 1881,	.
Rev. Albert Hammett,	July 6, 1881,	Aug. 3, 1881,	Sept. 14, 1881,	Sept. 14, 1881,*	\$Dec. 12, 1883,
George A. Nute.	.	.	.	Sept. 7, 1881,*	Jan. 22, 1891,
1880 [Elected Oct. 13, 1880]	[Installed Nov. 10, 1880]				
Chas. J. Woods, Sr. Warden;	CHAS. C. HENRY, Secretary;			S. H. WHITCOMB, Jr. Deacon;	
JOHN C. WHITNEY, Jr. Warden;	— — — — — , Chaplain;			AARON BELLAM, Ins. Sentinel;	
F. E. HALL, Sr. Steward;	O. S. WALKER, Marshal;			F. H. PRATT, Organist;	
FREDERICK LEWIS, Jr. Steward;	H. G. Wood, Sr. Deacon;			— — — — — , Tyler.	
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;					
1881 [Elected Oct. 5, 1881]	[Installed Nov. 2 1881]				
H. G. Wood, Sr. Warden;	CHAS. C. HENRY, Secretary;			F. H. HALL, Jr. Deacon;	
S. H. WHITCOMB, Jr. Warden;	Rev. A. HAMMETT, Chaplain;			C. W. MESSENGER, Ins. Sentinel;	
F. REED, Sr. Steward;	O. S. WALKER, Marshal,			F. H. PRATT, Organist;	
W. C. BELLAM, Jr. Steward;	FRED'K LEWIS, Sr. Deacon;			AARON BELLAM, Tyler.	
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;					
George W. Best,	Nov. 2, 1881,	Dec. 7, 1881,	Jan. 4, 1882,	Jan. 4, 1882,	.
William L. Doane,	Feb. 1, 1882,	Mar. 1, 1882,	Apr. 5, 1882,	Apr. 5, 1882,	.
Daniel C. Felton,	May 3, 1882,	June 7, 1882,	July 26, 1882,	July 26, 1882,	.
Fred F. Shumann,	May 3, 1882,	June 7, 1882,	July 19, 1882,	July 19, 1882,	.
Silas E. Simonds,	June 21, 1882,	Aug. 23, 1882,	Sept. 20, 1882,	Sept. 20, 1882,\$	Nov. 10, 1886,
Charles W. Bates,	June 21, 1882,	Aug. 23, 1882,	Sept. 27, 1882,	Sept. 27, 1882,	.
*Died.	† Membership lost.				\$ Demitted.

***Died.**

† Membership lost.

1882 [Elected Oct. 25, 1882] HENRY G. WOOD, W. M. [Installed Nov. 22, 1882] 1883
 FRED'K LEWIS, Sr. Warden; S. E. SIMONDS, Secretary; F. H. HALL, Jr. Deacon;
 S. H. WHITCOMB, Jr. Warden; Rev. A. HAMMETT, Chaplain; C. W. MESSENGER, Ins. Sentinel;
 FRED'K REED, Sr. Steward; O. S. WALKER, Marshal; M. L. EATON, Organist;
 W. C. BELLAM, Jr. Steward; CHAS. C. HENRY, Sr. Deacon; AARON BELLAM, Tyler.
 C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
George O. Allen.	Dec. 20, 1882.	Feb. 14, 1883.	Mar. 14, 1883.	Mar. 14, 1883.	.
Clarence A. Brown,	Jan. 17, 1883.	Feb. 14, 1883.	Mar. 14, 1883.	Mar. 14, 1883.	.
John A. Wood, Jr.,	Jan. 17, 1883.	Feb. 14, 1883.	Mar. 21, 1883.	Mar. 21, 1883.	.
Uriel C. Simonds,	Jan. 17, 1883.	Feb. 14, 1883.	Mar. 14, 1883.	Mar. 14, 1883.	.
Charles W. Bacon,	Feb. 21, 1883.	Apr. 11, 1883.	May 9, 1883.	May 9, 1883.	† June 12, 1889.
Charles W. Perry.	Feb. 21, 1883.	Apr. 11, 1883.	June 20, 1883.	June 20, 1883.	.
Isaac Damon,	April 18, 1883.	Aug. 15, 1883.	Sept. 12, 1883.	Sept. 12, 1883.	.
Harry Felch,	April 18, 1883.	May 16, 1883.	Sept. 5, 1883.	Sept. 5, 1883.	.
John E. Felch.	April 18, 1883.	May 16, 1883.	Sept. 5, 1883.	Sept. 5, 1883.	Life member.
Charles P. Currier,	Oct. 24, 1883.	.	.	.	.
Milton F. Jones,	Oct. 24, 1883.	.	.	.	.
John W. Storer,	Oct. 24, 1883.	.	.	.	.
Henry Andrews,	Nov. 14, 1883.	.	.	.	.
John B. Newton,	Nov. 14, 1883.	.	.	.	.
Thomas L. Irwin,	.	.	.	.	.
Charles H. Haggett,	.	.	.	Jan. 17, 1883.	.
James Adams,	.	.	.	Feb. 21, 1883.	.

* Died.

† Membership lost.

§ Demitted.

1883 [Elected Oct. 10, 1883] *HENRY G. WOOD, W. M. [Installed Nov. 21, 1883] 1884
 FREDERICK LEWIS, Sr. Warden; JOHN ROCKWOOD, Secretary; F. H. HALL, Jr. Deacon;
 S. H. WHITCOMB, Jr. Warden; Rev. J. P. SHEAFE, Jr., Chap'n; C. W. MESSENGER, Ins. Sentinel;
 W. C. BELLAM, Sr. Steward; O. S. WALKER, Marshal; M. L. EATON, Organist;
 J. H. GILLIGAN, Jr. Steward; CHAS. C. HENRY, Sr. Deacon; AARON BELLAM, Tyler.
 C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Charles P. Currier.	.	Dec. 12, 1883, Feb.	6, 1884, Feb.	6, 1884.	.
Milton F. Jones,	.	Dec. 12, 1883, Jan.	9, 1884, Jan.	9, 1884.	.
John W. Storer,	.	Dec. 12, 1883, Jan.	22, 1884, Jan.	22, 1884.	.
Henry Andrews,	.	Mar. 5, 1884, Apr.	2, 1884, Apr.	2, 1884.	.
John B. Newton,	.	Dec. 12, 1883, Feb.	6, 1884, Feb.	6, 1884.	.
John M. Blair,	Feb. 6, 1884, Mar.	5, 1884, Apr.	9, 1884, Apr.	9, 1884.	.
Joseph E. Atwood,	Mar. 26, 1884, May	7, 1884, June	4, 1884, June	4, 1884.	.
Samuel J. DeLuc,	Mar. 26, 1884, May	7, 1884, June	11, 1884, June	11, 1884.	.
Noah A. Chessman,	Mar. 26, 1884, May	7, 1884, June	11, 1884, June	11, 1884.	.
J. Horatio Littlefield,	June 20, 1884, July	30, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884.	.
Patrick H. Cooney,	July 30, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884, Dec.	31, 1884, Dec.	31, 1884.	.
Henry C. Mulligan,	July 2, 1884, Aug.	6, 1884, Sept.	3, 1884, Sept.	3, 1884.	.
Joseph B. Jones,	June 20, 1884, July	30, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884.	.
John Handwerker,	June 20, 1884, July	30, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884.	.
John H. Ryan,	July 2, 1884, July	30, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884.	.
Joseph E. Selfe,	July 2, 1884, July	30, 1884, Sept.	3, 1884, Sept.	3, 1884.	.
Charles A. Tamplin,	July 30, 1884, Aug.	27, 1884, Sept.	3, 1884, Sept.	3, 1884.	.
Charles L. Lewis,	Sept. 10, 1884, Oct.	8, 1884, Nov.	5, 1884, Nov.	5, 1884.	.

* Appointed and Installed D. D. G. M. 21st Masonic Dist. Dec. 1883-5; Elected and Installed Jr. Gr. Warden Dec. 1888.

† Died.

‡ Membership lost.

TABLE—Continued from Page 243.

[1884

1883]

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Thomas E. Johnson,	Oct. 8, 1884,	Nov. 5, 1884,	.	.	.
Willard J. Blood,	Sept. 10, 1884,	Oct. 8, 1884,	Nov. 5, 1884,	Nov. 5, 1884,	.
Dura Wadsworth, Jr.,	Sept. 10, 1884,	.	.	.	.
William A. Knowlton,	Sept. 10, 1884,	Oct. 8, 1884,	Nov. 5, 1884,	Nov. 5, 1884,	.
Charles W. Ford,	Oct. 8, 1884,	.	.	.	.
Lysander W. Russell,	.	.	.	.	.
Joshua Gardner,	Honorable membership,	.	.	Mar. 5, 1884,	.
1884 [Elected Oct. 1, 1884] FREDERICK LEWIS, W. M. [Installed Nov. 19, 1884] 1885					
CHAS. C. HENRY, Sr. Warden;	JOHN ROCKWOOD, Secretary;	C. W. BATES, Jr. Deacon;			
CHAS. O. S. WALKER, Jr. Warden;	Rev. J. P. SHEAFE, Jr., Chaplin;	JOHN M. BLAIR, Ins. Sentinel;			
CHAS. A. BROWN, Sr. Steward;	W. C. BELLAM, Marshal;	M. L. Eaton, Organist;			
GEO. H. JACKSON, Jr. Steward;	J. H. GILLIGAN, Sr. Deacon;	E. L. GREENWOOD, Tyler.			
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;	.	.			
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Thomas E. Johnson,	.	.	Dec. 31, 1884,	Dec. 31, 1884,	.
Dura Wadsworth, Jr.,	.	Dec. 17, 1884,	Jan. 14, 1885,	Jan. 14, 1885,	.
Charles W. Ford,	.	Dec. 17, 1885,	Jan. 14, 1885,	Jan. 14, 1885,	.
Frank B. Twitchell,	Dec. 3, 1884,	Jan. 28, 1885,	Feb. 25, 1885,	Feb. 25, 1885,	.
Chester T. Soule,	Dec. 17, 1884,	Jan. 28, 1885,	Feb. 25, 1885,	Feb. 25, 1885,	.
Willie F. Tilton,	Mar. 25, 1885,	April 29, 1885,	May 13, 1885,	May 13, 1885,	.
John Henry Bacon,	June 3, 1885,	Dec. 26, 1885,	.	.	.
* Died.					
† Membership lost.					\$ Demitted.

[1884

TABLE—Concluded from Page 244.

1885]

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
James C. Whitney.	May 13, 1885,	June 24, 1885,	Sept. 23, 1885,	Sept. 23, 1885,	
Edward W. Henck,	July 17, 1885,	Aug. 19, 1885,	Sept. 16, 1885,	Sept. 16, 1885,	Feb. 2, 1887,
Homer M. Bean,	May 13, 1885,	June 24, 1885,	July 22, 1885,	July 22, 1885,	
Henry W. True.	May 13, 1885,	June 24, 1885,	July 22, 1885,	July 22, 1885,	Apr. 22, 1891,
Eben Smith,	Nov. 18, 1885,	.	.	.	
Geo. F. Richardson,	.	.	.	Feb. 25, 1885,	
Joseph Seaver,	.	.	.	Apr. 29, 1885,	
1885 [Elected Oct. 21, 1885]	FREDERICK LEWIS, W. M.	[Installed Nov. 11, 1885]	1886		
CHAS. C. HENRY, Sr. Warden ;	JOHN ROCKWOOD, Secretary ;	JOHN A. WOOD, Jr., Jr. Deacon ;			
JAS. H. GILLIGAN, Jr. Warden ;	Rev. J. P. SHEAFE, Jr., Chaplain ;	J. M. BLAIR, Ins. Sentinel ;			
C. A. BROWN, Sr. Steward ;	W. C. BELLAM, Marshal ;	M. L. EATON, Organist ;			
GEO. H. JACKSON, Jr. Steward ;	C. W. BATES, Sr. Deacon ;	C. J. WOOD, Tyler.			
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer ;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Eben Smith,	.	Dec. 16, 1885,	Jan. 20, 1886,	Jan. 20, 1886,	
James E. Cooper,	Nov. 18, 1885,	Dec. 16, 1885,	Jan. 20, 1886,	Jan. 20, 1886,	
Chas. M. McKechnie,	Mar. 17, 1886,	May 12, 1886,	Aug. 11, 1886,	Aug. 11, 1886,	
Waldo Stone,	Apr. 14, 1886,	May 12, 1886,	Aug. 11, 1886,	Aug. 11, 1886,	
Frank E. Woods,	Apr. 14, 1886,	May 12, 1886,	Sept. 8, 1886,	Sept. 8, 1886,	
Henry J. Dunn,	June 16, 1886,	July 14, 1886,	Aug. 11, 1886,	Aug. 11, 1886,	
Raymond Weiker.	June 16, 1886,	July 14, 1886,	Aug. 11, 1886,	Aug. 11, 1886,	

† Membership lost.

* Died.

§ Demitted.

TABLE—Concluded from Page 245.

[1886]

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Charles W. Gilman.	.	.	.	Apr. 14, 1886.	.
Edwin V. Mitchell.	.	.	.	Apr. 14, 1886.	.
M. C. Cloudman.	.	.	.	June 1, 1886.	.

1886 [Elected Oct. 6, 1886] CHARLES C. HENRY. W. M. [Installed Nov. 10, 1886] 1887

J. H. GALLIGAN, Sr. Warden ;	JOHN ROCKWOOD, Secretary ;	G. O. ALLEN, Jr. Deacon ;
C. J. Wood, Jr. Warden ;	R. H. RANDALL, Chaplain ;	J. B. JONES, Ins. Sentinel ;
F. E. Woods, Sr. Steward ;	Wor. E. H. WILSON, Marshal ;	M. L. EATON, Organist ;
J. E. Atwood, Jr. Steward ;	C. F. SOULE, Sr. Deacon ;	O. S. WALKER, Tyler.
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer ;		

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
William E. Robbins.	Dec. 8, 1886.	Jan. 5, 1887.	Feb. 2, 1887.	Feb. 2, 1887.	.
Arthur Mitchell.	Dec. 8, 1886.	Jan. 5, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	.
Charles T. Brooks.	Dec. 8, 1886.	Jan. 5, 1887.	Feb. 2, 1887.	Feb. 2, 1876.	.
James H. Daley.	Mar. 9, 1887.	May 4, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	.
Julius A. Fitts.	Apr. 6, 1887.	May 4, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	.
Stephen W. Holmes.	Apr. 6, 1887.	May 4, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	.
Frank. H. Loker.	Apr. 6, 1887.	May 4, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	June 1, 1887.	.
Myron W. Bent.	May 18, 1887.	July 6, 1887.	Sept. 7, 1887.	Sept. 7, 1887.	.
Elmer M. Bent.	May 18, 1887.	July 6, 1887.	Aug. 31, 1887.	Aug. 31, 1887.	.
Elmer E. Wentworth.	May 18, 1887.	July 6, 1887.	Aug. 31, 1887.	Aug. 31, 1887.	.

1886] TABLE — Concluded from Page 246. [1887

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Elwin C. Huntoon,	May 18, 1887,	July 6, 1887,	Aug. 31, 1887,	Aug. 31, 1887,	.
Charles S. Oliver,	July 6, 1887,	Aug. 3, 1887,	Aug. 31, 1887,	Aug. 31, 1887,	.
William F. Johnson.	.	.	.	.	.
Manley Seaverns,	.	.	.	Mar. 16, 1887,	.
John McLeod,	.	.	.	Mar. 9, 1887,	.
Geo. La F. Smith,	.	.	.	June 1, 1887,	.
Alfred M. Coutts,	.	.	.	Aug. 22, 1887,	.
<hr/>					
1887 [Elected Oct. 26, 1887]	CHARLES C. HENRY, W. M. [Installed Nov. 28, 1887] 1888				
J. H. GILLIGAN, Sr. Warden;	JOHN ROCKWOOD, Secretary; GEO. O. ALLEN, Jr. Deacon;				
C. F. SOULE, Jr. Warden;	Rev. C. H. WALTERS, Chaplain; WALDO STONE, Ins. Sentinel;				
F. E. WOODS, Sr. Steward;	Wor. F. F. LEWIS, Marshal; F. H. PRATT, Organist;				
J. E. ATWOOD, Jr. Steward;	J. A. WOOD, Jr., Sr. Deacon; AARON BELLAM, Tyler.				
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
William F. Johnson,	Nov. 30, 1887,	Dec. 28, 1887,	Feb. 22, 1888,	Feb. 22, 1888,	.
John F. Williams,	Nov. 30, 1887,	Dec. 28, 1887,	Feb. 22, 1888,	Feb. 22, 1888,	.
George C. Smith,	Jan. 25, 1888,	Mar. 21, 1888,	May 9, 1888,	May 9, 1888,	.
Lewis M. Brown,	Jan. 25, 1888,	Apr. 25, 1888,	Apr. 25, 1888,	Apr. 25, 1888,	.
Cyrus J. Littlefield,	Feb. 1, 1888,	Mar. 21, 1888,	Apr. 1, 1888,	Apr. 1, 1888,	.
Elbridge N. Pike,	Feb. 1, 1888,	Mar. 21, 1888,	May 9, 1888,	May 9, 1888,	.
Lorenzo P. Bourne,	Feb. 1, 1888,	Mar. 21, 1888,	May 9, 1888,	May 9, 1888,	.
Nathaniel Seaver,	Feb. 1, 1888,	Mar. 21, 1888,	May 9, 1888,	May 9, 1888,	.

1887] TABLE—Concluded from Page 247. [1888

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
William H. Mann,	May 23, 1888,	June 20, 1888,	Aug. 1, 1888,	Aug. 1, 1888,	* Nov. 28, 1890,
Albert F. Bacon,	May 23, 1888,	June 20, 1888,	Aug. 1, 1888,	Aug. 1, 1888,	.
John W. Fowle,	May 23, 1888,	June 20, 1888,	Aug. 1, 1888,	Aug. 1, 1888,	.
Frank M. Forbush,	May 23, 1888,	June 20, 1888,	Aug. 1, 1888,	Aug. 1, 1888,	.
John W. Lee,	June 6, 1888,	July 11, 1888,	Aug. 8, 1888,	Aug. 8, 1888,	.
Wm. C. Woodward,	June 6, 1888,	Aug. 15, 1888,	Sept. 19, 1888,	Sept. 19, 1888,	.
Sumner W. Childs,	June 6, 1888,	July 11, 1888,	Aug. 8, 1888,	Aug. 8, 1888,	.
Clarence E. Thayer,	June 6, 1888,	July 11, 1888,	Aug. 8, 1888,	Aug. 8, 1888,	.
Reuben K. Sawyer,	July 18, 1888,	Aug. 15, 1888,	Sept. 19, 1888,	Sept. 19, 1888,	.
Fred O. Johnson,	July 18, 1888,	Aug. 15, 1888,	Sept. 19, 1888,	Sept. 19, 1888,	.
Rev. C. H. Walters,	.	.	.	Jan. 25, 1888,	\$ Apr. 22, 1891,
Mark W. Hall,	.	.	.	Aug. 8, 1888,	* Oct. 7, 1890,
Newton L. Turner,	June 17, 1870,	Sept. 30, 1870,	Sept. 19, 1888,	Sept. 19, 1888,	.
1888 [Elected Oct. 17, 1888]	JAMES H. GILLIGAN, W. M.	[Installed Nov. 14, 1888]	1889		
C. F. Soule, Sr. Warden;	JOHN ROCKWOOD, Secretary;	J. E. ATWOOD, Jr. Deacon;			
J. A. Woods, Jr., Jr. Warden;	Rev. C. H. WALTERS, Chaplain;	JAMES DOWNS, Ins. Sentinel;			
G. W. Best, Sr. Steward;	Wor. FRED'K LEWIS, Marshal;	F. H. PRATT, Organist;			
C. J. LITTLEFIELD, Jr. Steward;	E. C. HUNTOON, Sr. Deacon;	AARON BELLAM, Tyler.			
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
John M. Fiske,	Dec. 12, 1888,	Jan. 16, 1889,	Apr. 10, 1889,	Apr. 10, 1889,	.
Frank S. Haraden,	Feb. 13, 1889,	Mar. 13, 1889,	Apr. 10, 1889,	Apr. 10, 1889,	.
Hubert Haynes.	Feb. 13, 1889,	Mar. 13, 1889,	Apr. 10, 1889,	Apr. 10, 1889,	.
*Died.					\$ Demitted.
					† Membership Lost.

1888] TABLE—Concluded from Page 248. [1889

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
James H. Dawson,	May 15, 1889,	June 12, 1889,	July 10, 1889,	July 10, 1889,	.
Amrose C. Bryant,	May 15, 1889,	June 12, 1889,	July 10, 1889,	July 10, 1889,	.
Edward W. Burnham,	May 15, 1889,	June 12, 1889,	July 10, 1889,	July 10, 1889,	.
Edwin J. Keyou,	June 19, 1889,	Aug. 7, 1889,	Sept. 4, 1889,	Sept. 4, 1889,	.
Homer H. Fiske,	June 19, 1889,	Aug. 7, 1889,	Sept. 4, 1889,	Sept. 4, 1889,	.
Henry B. Phalen,	June 19, 1889,	Aug. 7, 1889,	Sept. 4, 1889,	Sept. 4, 1889,	.
Charles N. Hoker,	.	.	.	June 12, 1889,	.

1889	[Elected Oct. 2, 1889]	JAMES H. GILLIGAN, W. M.	[Installed Nov. 6, 1889]	1890
C. F. SOULE, Sr. Warden;	Wor. C. C. HENRY, Secretary;	J. E. ATWOOD, Jr. Deacon;		
J. A. WOODS, Jr., Jr. Warden;	F. M. FORBUSH, Chaplain;	JAMES DOWNS, Ins. Sentinel;		
G. W. BEST, Sr. Steward;	Wor. FRED'K LEWIS, Marshal;	F. H. PRATT, Organist;		
C. J. LITTLEFIELD, Jr. Steward;	E. C. HUNTOON, St. Deacon;	AARON BELLAM, Tyler.		
C. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;				

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
John Keegan,	Dec. 4, 1889,	Jan. 1, 1890,	Feb. 5, 1890,	Feb. 5, 1890,	.
Samuel Roberts,	Mar. 5, 1890,	Apr. 2, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	.
Stephen Pratt,	Mar. 5, 1890,	Apr. 2, 1890,	May 7, 1890,	May 7, 1890,	.
William F. Garfield,	Mar. 12, 1890,	Apr. 16, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	.
Charles H. French,	Mar. 12, 1890,	Apr. 16, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	.
Webster E. Oliver,	Mar. 12, 1890,	Apr. 16, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	.
W. N. Hunnewell,	Mar. 5, 1890,	Apr. 16, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	May 21, 1890,	.
George W. Bishop,	May 7, 1890,	June 4, 1890,	Oct. 1, 1890,	Oct. 1, 1890,	.

TABLE — Concluded from Page 249.

1889]

[1890

Name.	Passed.	Initiated.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Walter E. Mars,	July 30, 1890,	Aug. 27, 1890,	Oct. 1, 1890,	Oct. 1, 1890,	.
Henry D. Winton,	Sept. 24, 1890,	.	.	.	.
Charles J. Foscett,	Sept. 24, 1890,	.	.	.	.
John H. Pratt,	.	.	.	Feb. 5, 1890,	.
William H. Duplissis,	.	.	.	Mar. 5, 1890,	.
James H. Dolliver,	.	.	.	June 4, 1890,	.
Seth Dewing,	.	.	.	Sept. 24, 1890,	.
John McKenzie,	.	.	.	May 7, 1890,	.
1890 [Elected Oct. 22, 1890]	CHESTER F. SOULE,	W. M.	[Installed Nov. 26, 1890]	1891	
JOHN A. WOOD, Jr., Sr. Warden;	Wor. CHAS. C. HENRY, Secretary;	Geo. W. Best, Jr. Deacon;			
ELVIN C. HUNTOON, Jr. Warden;	Rev. C. W. BLACKETT, Chaplain;	W. E. OLIVER, Ins. Sentinel;			
C. J. LITTLEFIELD, Sr. Steward;	Wor. D. H. L. GLEASON, Marshal;	FRANCIS H. PRATT, Organist;			
AMBR. C. BRYANT, Jr. Steward;	WALTER E. MARS, Sr. Deacon;	AARON BELLAM, Tyler.			
CHAS. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Charles J. Foscett,	.	Dec. 24, 1890,	Feb. 18, 1891,	Feb. 18, 1891,	.
Henry D. Winton,	.	Jan. 21, 1891,	Feb. 18, 1891,	Feb. 18, 1891,	.
Charles F. Read,	Mar. 25, 1891,	Apr. 22, 1891,	May 20, 1891,	May 20, 1892,	.
William O. Cutler,	Mar. 25, 1891,	Apr. 22, 1891,	May 20, 1891,	May 20, 1891,	.
Thomas F. Fiske,	Mar. 25, 1891,	Apr. 22, 1891,	May 20, 1891,	May 20, 1891,	.
Joseph W. Gilbert,	June 10, 1891,	July 15, 1891,	Aug. 19, 1891,	Aug. 19, 1891,	.
John Connelly,	June 10, 1891,	July 15, 1891,	Aug. 19, 1891,	Aug. 19, 1891,	.
Herbert E. Palmer,	June 10, 1891,	July 15, 1891,	.	.	.

1890] TABLE—Concluded from Page 250. [1891

Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Rev. C. W. Blackett, Wilnot W. Mitchell,	. . .	. . .	. . .	Aug. 19, 1891, Aug. 19, 1891.	. . .
1891 [Elected Oct. 14, 1891]	ELWIN. C. HUNTOON,	W. M.	[Installed Nov. 13, 1870]	1892	
E. S. DODGE, M. D., Sr. Warden ;	Wor. CHAS. C. HENRY, Sec'y ;				C. J. LITTLEFIELD, Jr. Deacon ;
H. C. MULLIGAN, Jr. Warden ;	Rev. C. W. BLACKETT, Chapl'n ;				W. N. HUNNEWELL, Ins. Sent'l ;
DAN'L C. FELTON, Sr. Steward ;	Wor. SILAS H. BENT, Marshal ;				FRANCIS H. PRATT, Organist ;
W. E. OLIVER, Jr. Steward ;	CHAS. W. BATES, Sr. Deacon ;				AARON BELLAM. Tyler.
CHAS. H. WHITCOMB, Treasurer ;					
Name.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Membership.	Remarks.
Herbert E. Palmer,	. . .	. . .	Feb.	10, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892.
George A. Eaton,	Dec. 9, 1891, Jan.	13, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892.
Noble C. Griffin,	Dec. 9, 1891, Jan.	13, 1862, Feb.	10, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892.
William W. Tailby,	Dec. 9, 1891, Jan.	13, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892, Feb.	10, 1892.
Marshall L. Perrin,	Mar. 9, 1892, Apr.	6, 1892, Sept.	7, 1892, Sept.	7, 1892, Sept.	7, 1892.
Harry L. Peckham.	May 11, 1892, July	6, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892.
Alpheus O. Grant,	June 8, 1892, July	6, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892.
William J. Hobbs,	June 8, 1892, July	6, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892, Aug.	3, 1892.
G. A. Bancroft, M. D.,	Sept. 14, 1892.	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
John G. Basson,	Sept. 14, 1892.	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Arthur Barratt,	Sept. 14, 1892.	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

OF

MERIDIAN LODGE, OCTOBER 1, 1892.

[Life members indicated by an asterisk (*).]

Adams, Joseph S.	Brown, Louis M.	Felch, Harry
Allen, George O.	Bullard, Ira O.	*Felch, Henry F.
Ambler, James A.	Blair, John M.	Felch, Isaac K.
Andrews, Henry	Bean, Homer M.	*Felch, John E.
Atherton, Herbert W.	Bourne, Lorenzo P.	*Felch, Oliver A.
Atwood, Joseph E.	Bullard, Joseph O.	*Fellows, Isaac M.
Auld, John	Bullard, R. Nason	Felton, Daniel C.
Bent, James A.	Crosby, William	Fiske, Albert A.
Bryant, Alfred H.	Crosby, William E.	Fiske, David F.
Butler, Edward P.	Currier, William H.	Fiske, John M.
Bigwood, Franklin J.	*Cheney, Amos P.	Fiske, Homer H.
Bent, Elmer M.	Child, Charles H.	Fiske, Thomas F.
Bishop, George W.	Cobb, William W.	Fitts, Julius A.
Bent, William H.	Currier, Charles P.	Forbush, Frank M.
Bryant, Ambrose	Cooney, Patrick H.	Forbush, James M.
Bent, Ralph	Cloudman, Marcellus C.	Foskett, Abijah
Bent, Myron W.	Childs, Sumner W.	Fowle, John W.
Bryant, Ambrose C.	Currier, Samuel	Fox, Rosalba J.
Blackett, Rev. Charles W.	Cutler, William O.	Freeman, Nelson
Babb, Mark B.	Curry, Thomas	Freeman, William C.
Barker, George M.	Cooper, James E.	French, Charles H.
Bean, Josiah A.	Coutts, Alfred W.	Garfield, William F.
Bent, Silas H.	Chessman, Noah A.	Gilbert, Joseph W.
Bird, Warren A.	Connelly, John	Gilligan, James H.
Bellam, Aaron	Cooldidge, Edwin	Gilman, C. W.
Bowker, Ira E.	*Davis, Charles A.	Gleason, Charles W.
*Brooks, Sidney G.	Downs, James	Gleason, D. H. L.
Burks, Chas. W.	Dakin, George T.	Glidden, Irving E.
Blias, George E.	Dodge, M. D., Edgar S.	Gordon, James S.
Brierley, George	Daly, Dr. James H.	Grant, A. O.
Baston, Frederick O.	Doane, William L.	Greenwood, Edw. L.
Bugbee, Albert B.	Downes, J. W. C.	Griffin, Noble C.
Best, George W.	Dolliver, James H.	Harraden, Melvin E.
Bates, Charles W.	Dawson, James H.	Harraden, Rev. Frank S.
Brown, Clarence A.	Dunn, Henry J.	Hosmer, Charles L.
Brooks, Charles T.	Dewing, Seth	Hill, Isaac N.
Bacon, Albert F.	Dean, Charles W.	Hobbs, William J.
Burnham, Edward W.	Damon, Isaac	Hobbs, W. G.
Beckwith, Lowell A.	Duplissis, William H.	Hollis, Elisha P.
Bellam, William C.	Dowse, George B.	Houghton, George G.
Blandin, Charles F.	Eaton, George A.	Hayes, Edward A.
Blood, Willard J.	*Fairbanks, John B.	Howe, Lewellen L.
Brown, Edwin	Fairbanks, George C.	Hall, Frank H.

Haggett, Charles H.	Pike, Eldridge N.	Storer, Charles
Henry, Charles C.	*Phipps, Henry T.	Soule Chester F.
Holmes, Stephen W.	Pratt, Stephen	Smith, M. D., George C.
Huntoon, Elwin C.	Parlin, William D.	*Seaward, John M.
Haynes, Hubert	*Parlin, Asher	Shattuck, Frank W.
Handwerker, John	Perry, Francis C.	Shattuck, William F.
Hooker, Charles N.	Pratt, Francis H.	Selfe, Joseph E.
Hopf, Martin	Pooke, Charles A.	Sawyer, Reuben K.
Hunnewell, Willard N.	Palmer, Arthur W.	Tailby, William Ward
Jackson, George H.	Perry, Charles W.	Tilton, Franklin B.
Jenks, Francis Z.	Pratt, John H.	Tirrell, Charles Q.
Johnson, Fred O.	Peckham, Harry L.	Twitcheil, Frank B.
Johnson, Thomas E.	Palmer, Herbert E.	Tilton, Willie F.
Johnson, William F.	Phalen, Henry B.	Townsend, M. D., Geo. J.
Johnstone, James T.	Randall, Robert H.	Tamplin, Charles A.
Jones, Joseph B.	*Reed, Nathan	Turner, Newton L.
Jones, Milton F.	Ripley, Frederick H.	Underwood, Jos. A.
Keegan, John	Rawson, Walter E.	Wilder, William W.
Keyou, Edwin J.	Reed, Frederick	Wentworth, Elmer E.
Knowlton, William A.	Robbins, William F.	Woodward, William C.
Lane, Charles H.	Rawson, Charles E.	Weiker, Raymond
Leach, George A.	*Reed, George A.	Wadsworth, Jr., Dura
Lee, John W.	*Rockwood, John.	Whitney, James C.
Lewis, Frederick	Randall, George H.	Wood, Ephraim A.
Littlefield, J. H.	Rogers, David F.	Waite, James H.
Littlefield, Cyrus J.	Rogers, Joseph H.	Wheeler, Aaron
Loker, Alfred C.	Russell, Lysander W.	Willard, Timothy W.
Loker, Frank H.	Read, Charles F.	Whitney, John C.
Lovejoy, William W.	Roberts, Samuel	Whitcomb, Silas H.
Lyon, Albert B.	Ricker, Arthur J.	Wright, Reuben R.
McKeechie, Charles M.	Richardson, George F.	Whitney, Harvey H.
McKenzie, John	Seaver, Josepa	Wight, Wendell W.
McLeod, John A.	Seaver, Nathaniel.	Walker, Oscar S.
Mars, Walter E.	Seaverns, Manley	Whitcomb, Chas. H.
Messinger, Charles W.	Simonds, Uriel C.	Whitcomb, Nath'l. W.
Miles, Alonzo	Sheafe, Rev. Joseph P.	Wight, Royal B.
Mills, George H.	Smith, George L.	Wilson, Edward H.
Mitchell, M. D., Arthur	Smith, George M.	Woods, Oliver
Mitchell, Edwin V.	Sawin, Theodore L.	Wright, M. D., James H.
Mitchell, Willnot W.	Smith, Edward B.	Wood, Charles J.
Mulligan, Simon	Stone, Waldo	Wood, Henry G.
Mulligan, Henry C.	Shumann, Frank F.	Wood, Jr., John A.
Murray, William	Storer, John W.	Woods, Frank E.
Newton, John B.	Smith, Eben	Williams, John F.
Nutt, William	*Seifer, Jacob	Winton, Henry D.
Nute, Fordyce P.	Sleeper, George L.	Ware, Augustus
Oliver, Charles S.	*Sweetland, Stephen A.	Ware, Marcellus A.
Oliver, Webster E.	Stowell, William	Ware, Vorestus.

THE MORGAN EPISODE.*

WILLIAM MORGAN was a native of Virginia, where he was born in 1775. Of his early years but little is known, though many strange stories have been told of him. He claimed to have taken an active part in most of the battles south of the Potomac, which is probably in the most part true. In 1819 he married Lucinda Pendleton, of Virginia, and two years afterwards removed to York, in Canada West, where he was connected with a brewery. His original trade, however, was that of an operative mason. The establishment at York being subsequently destroyed by fire, Morgan removed to Rochester, where he for a time labored at his trade in the capacity of journeyman. From Rochester he removed to Le Roy, and afterwards to Batavia, in Genesee County.

In person he was of middle stature, rather prepossessing in appearance, with a quick and intelligent but sinister glancing eye. In disposition was envious, malicious, and vindictive.

His school education was meagre, but he had by reading picked up some general information, and being a man of rather acute observation he passed as a sort of oracle among the lower class of loungers at the village taverns. His habits at this period of his life were low and intemperate; his nights, and often times days also, being spent in tippling houses, whilst his family was sadly neglected.

At about this period he became a Mason, and a sad commentary on the standard of morality in the Lodge where he was admitted. (It was stated on high authority that at the time of the initiation he remained in the ante-room nearly one hour, until an objecting brother was over-persuaded to consent to his admission). Though too indolent to dig, he was not ashamed

* From Surretty's History of Corinthian Lodge, 1859.

to beg, and was remarkably ingenious in devising means to secure charity from his Masonic brethren.

During the year 1825, through a combination of circumstances, serious difficulties sprang up between Morgan and his Masonic brethren.

One cause was his disappointment in not receiving a contract for a Masonic edifice at Le Roy. Another, and the principal reason for his subsequent vindictive course, was the refusal to allow his name on a petition for a new Charter at Batavia, to which place he had then removed. One of his boon-companions at this place was David C. Miller, the editor of a village paper: a man of fair talents, but of indifferent moral principles and intemperate habits. Miller's conduct had alienated his political friends, and a rival newspaper had just been established by them in the place when Morgan removed thither.

Miller had many years before taken one degree in Masonry at Albany. A similarity of tastes and habits brought him into intimate association with Morgan, and while brooding over their private griefs, it is presumed they concocted a plan for revenge. Certain it is that Morgan commenced writing something about Masonry in the spring of 1825; that he visited New York about that time, and was there frequently closeted with an expelled Mason; and that he was suddenly transposed from the ardent friend of the Masonic institution into its public, determined, and inveterate foe.

Morgan and Miller formed a co-partnership for the publication of an exposé of Freemasonry, the profits of which (from Miller's own confession) they supposed would be very great. The intended publication was openly announced in the spring of 1826, but for sometime it attracted no notice. Subsequently a little agitation betrayed itself among some of the less respectable members of the Order. This was eagerly taken advantage of by Morgan and his associate to create notoriety which would increase the sale of forthcoming "wonderful revelations." Thus quite an extensive local excitement was fermented, which spread into other places. Without occupying space with an enumeration of particulars, we will briefly say that after numerous

manœuverings on both sides, Morgan was arrested on a charge of petit larceny, and was committed to Canandagua jail on the evening of September 11, 1826. He remained in jail until the next evening, when he was released and left the jail in company with Lotus Lawson. The two were apparently on friendly terms. It is supposed that Morgan was immediately placed in a carriage which was observed standing near by, and was carried to Hamford's Landing, about three miles below Rochester; though it has never been proved that such was the fact.

The alleged abduction of Morgan caused great excitement in the vicinity of his residence, and led to charges of the most serious character against those who were suspected to have taken part in the matter. Public meetings were held, and committees chosen to follow up the investigation of the mystery that hung around his disappearance; and as facts were elicited, prosecutions were commenced by parties believed to have been actively concerned in the abduction, and perhaps murder, of the unfortunate man. That mystery has never yet been cleared away, and probably never will be penetrated further. It was supposed by many that Morgan was taken from Canandagua jail to Fort Niagara, by Masons. They charged the murder upon the whole Masonic Fraternity.

Others, who believed that murder had been committed, exonerated the Fraternity generally from all participation in it, or blame on account of it, charitably supposing that the foul deed was planned and executed by a few over-zealous, passion-blinded members of the Order, and that of the whole number who were concerned in his abduction, not more than two or three had any knowledge, or even supposition, that violence was intended.

Others again believe that no foul deed had been committed, but that Morgan had been bribed to leave the country. The almost proved facts that such negotiations were entered into with him, and that he has been seen in another part of the world (Smyrna), joined with the previous respected character of the principal individuals implicated in his disappearance, would seem to favor such an explanation. As the real facts in the case will probably never be brought to light, the reader is left to follow the lead of his own reasonings, and erect such a theory as

shall seem to him most plausible, from the known facts of this truly dark and mysterious transaction.

A book was published shortly after the disappearance of Morgan, claiming to have been written by him and to be a true exposé of the secrets of Freemasonry; but its remarkable similarity to a previous work, published in London in 1750 (J. and B.), and the known fact that a large part at least of Morgan's manuscript never reached the printer's hands, caused the public to look upon it with suspicion; and it has never been considered of sufficient consequence to merit even a careful reading.

A few months after the disappearance of Morgan in 1826, "Anti-Masonry" began to assume form.

Some who had been expelled from Masonic Lodges, some who had sought admission and failed, some who had long been members of the Order and whose fancied merits had not received due recognition, some who felt aggrieved by the conduct of individual Masons; and above all, some who coveted political honors, enlisted under the banner of Anti-Masonry, and entered upon a vigorous and bitter crusade against the institution and its adherents. In January, 1827, a committee was chosen by a convention at Lewiston, N. Y., to investigate the abduction of Morgan. The committee in the succeeding March memorialized the Legislature for aid in pursuing the investigation; and during the same year the increasing hostility took the form of proscription from office of those known to be Masons. Politicians seized upon the circumstances and magnified them with such wonderful industry and ingenuity that in March, 1828, a large Anti-Masonic party received undisguised political form.

In May, proposals were issued for an Anti-Masonic paper in Boston; and in June the first number was issued under the name of the "FREE PRESS." In July, a "convention of Seceding Masons" was held at Le Roy, and in the following month the "New York State Anti-Masonic Convention was" held at Utica, and nominated an Anti-Masonic candidate for Governor.

In November the first public Anti-Masonic meeting was held in Massachusetts, at Fall River; and in the same month Plymouth County carried political Anti-Masonry to the ballot box in the Congressional election.

In 1829-30 Anti-Masonic conventions were held in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Rhode Island; public meetings were held in several other States; and in September, 1830, a National Anti-Masonic Convention was held at Philadelphia, at which eleven States were represented. In the following year William Wirt was nominated by the new party as the Anti-Masonic candidate for President of the United States, and the black tempest of Anti Masonry raged with remorseless fury. Commencing with indignation at a supposed outrage upon a single person, it had now grown into a blind, fanatical, and malignant persecution, extending over a large extent of territory, and sparing neither rank nor character. The cloud which at first seemed no larger than a man's hand, had increased until it well nigh covered the face of the whole heavens; and members of the Order were insulted, threatened, and persecuted, until the stoutest hearts trembled for the ancient institution and for their own personal safety.

While the excitement was at its height, the brethren of Massachusetts, who had hitherto remained silent, and allowed the work of detraction and persecution to go on unnoticed, determined to enter their solemn protest against the heartless and unrelenting crusade. The matter was proposed in the Grand Lodge; but as no plan presented met with acceptance, the subject was for a time postponed.

Finally the subject was introduced into "Boston Commandery of Knights Templar," and a declaration or protest, prepared by Bro. C. W. Moore, was unanimously adopted by the Commandery. Though intended only for the members of the above body, yet such was the desire among the brethren generally to unite with them, that it was determined to allow all who pleased to become parties to the declaration.

With very little effort for signatures, fourteen hundred and seventy-two names were obtained in a few days, and the document was then printed and circulated. Brethren in Connecticut and Rhode Island also signed it, until nearly 6,000 Masons in New England participated in this act of self-defence:

DECLARATION OF THE FREEMASONS OF BOSTON AND VICINITY, PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC MARCH 31, A. D. 1831.

WHILE the public mind remained in the high state of excitement to which it had been carried by the partial and inflammatory representations of certain offenses committed by a few misguided members of the Masonic institution in a sister State, it seemed to the undersigned (residents of Boston and vicinity) to be expedient to refrain from a public declaration of their principles or engagements as Masons; but believing the time now to be fully come when their fellow citizens will receive with candor, if not with satisfaction, a solemn and unequivocal denial of the allegations, which during the last five years, in consequence of their connection with the Masonic Fraternity, have been reiterated against them, they respectfully ask permission to invite attention to the subjoined

DECLARATION.

WHEREAS, it has been frequently asserted and published to the world that in several degrees of Freemasonry, as they are conferred in the United States, the candidate on his initiation and subsequent advancement, binds himself, by oath, to sustain his Masonic brethren in acts which are at variance with the fundamental principles of morality and incompatible with his duty as a good and faithful citizen.

In justice therefore to themselves, and with a view to establish truth, and expose imposition, the undersigned, many of us the recipients of every degree of Freemasonry known and acknowledged in this country, do most solemnly deny the existence of any such obligations in the Masonic institution, so far as our knowledge respectively extends. And we as solemnly aver that no person is admitted to the institution without first being made acquainted with the nature of the obligations which he will be required to incur and assume.

Freemasonry secures its members in the freedom of thought and of speech, and permits each and every one to act according to the dictates of his own conscience in matters of religion, and in his personal preferences in matters of politics. It neither knows, nor does it assume to inflict upon its erring members, however wide may be their aberrations from duty, any penalties or punishments, other than those of admonition, suspension, and expulsion.

The obligations of the institution require of its members a strict obedience to the laws of God and man. So far from being bound by any engagement inconsistent with the happiness and prosperity of the nation, every citizen who becomes a Mason, is doubly bound to be true to his God, to his country, and to his fellow-men. In the language of the "Ancient Constitutions" of the Order, which are printed and open for public inspection, and which are used as text-books in all the Lodges, he is "required to keep and obey the moral law; to be a quiet and peaceable citizen; true to his government and just to his country."

Masonry disdains the making of proselytes. She opens the portals of her asylum to those only who seek admission, with the recommendation of the character unspotted by immorality and vice. She simply requires of the candidate his assent to one great fundamental religious truth—The existence and Providence of God; and a practical acknowledgement of those infallible doctrines for the government of life which are written by the finger of God on the heart of man.

Entertaining such sentiments as Masons, as citizens, as Christians, and as moral men, and deeply impressed with the conviction that the Masonic institution has been, and may continue to be, productive of great good to their fellow-men; and having "received the laws of the society and its accumulated funds in sacred trust for charitable uses," the undersigned can neither renounce nor abandon it. We most cordially unite with the brethren of Salem and vicinity in the Declaration, and hope that, "should the people of the country become so infatuated as to deprive Masons of their civil rights, in violation of their written constitutions, and the wholesome spirit of just laws and free governments, a vast majority of the Fraternity will still remain

firm, confiding in God and the rectitude of their intentions for consolation under the trials to which they may be exposed."

Names and residence of the members and initiates of Meridian Lodge who signed the foregoing declaration :

Wor. MALACHI BABCOCK, Sherborn, Massachusetts.

.. WILLIAM SHEPARD, Needham, Massachusetts.

.. NATHANIEL WALES, Newton Lower Falls, Mass.

.. JOSHUA GARDNER, Newton Lower Falls, Mass.

.. JEREMIAH BUTLER, Sherborn, Massachusetts.

.. MOSES EAMES, So. Natick, Massachusetts.

.. ASA KINGSBURY, Needham, Massachusetts.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MASONRY.*

“ There are two kinds of Masonry,—Operative and Speculative. ” — RITUAL.

WHEN we take into consideration the peculiar character of our Institution ; the fact that the veil of mystery has ever been thrown around its history, its doctrines, and its proceedings ; and that compared with it the “ art preservative of all arts ” is but of yesterday,† we need not wonder at the variety of opinions advanced, and theories held, respecting the *origin* of our universally acknowledged “ Ancient Institution. ”

While one class of writers goes back even to the Garden of Eden, in tracing the origin of Freemasonry, another denies its existence previous to the latter part of the sixteenth century. Though such diversity of opinion may embarrass the Masonic student and retard his progress, yet it need not seriously mislead him from the path to light upon the subject.

In pursuing our investigations we should keep constantly in mind the double character of Freemasonry, — that it is an operative art and a speculative science : and that as it at present exists, it exhibits the strongest internal evidence of having been established by an union of the two, at some remote period of time. When and where was such a union formed, and for what purpose ?

During the middle ages the whole of Europe was perambulated by associated bands of artisans, under the name of “ Free and Accepted Masons, ” whose business was the erection of religious edifices. As far as can be ascertained these fraternities

* From Surretty's History of Corinthian Lodge, Concord, Mass.

† The first printed Masonic book was *The Constitution of Freemasons* by Anderson, London, 1723. •

were remarkably similar in their habits, usages, and form of government, which has led to the very general belief that they had a common origin.

The most reliable historians trace the organization of these associations to the "Collegiæ Artificum," or "Colleges of Artisans," instituted at Rome by Numa, about 714 B. C., whose members were originally Greeks, imported by him for the purpose of embellishing that city. They were endowed with certain privileges peculiar to themselves, among which was an immunity from taxation, from which privilege they received the title of *Free Masons*. Their meetings were held in private; they were divided into three classes, corresponding to the three degrees of Freemasonry; they admitted into their ranks as honorary members those who were not by profession operative Masons; used a symbolic language, drawn from the implements of Masonry; and were in possession of a secret mode of recognition. After filling the continent with churches and other religious edifices, these travelling architects or Masons passed over into England, and finally into Scotland. At Kilwinning, in Scotland, they erected an Abbey and established a Lodge. Through this Lodge Scottish Freemasonry has regularly descended to the present day.

In England, the earliest account we have of them is in an old manuscript, which declares that "St. Albans loved Masons well and made their pay right good," and that he obtained from Carausus, the British Emperor, A. D., 287, "a charter to allow them to meet in general assembly."

The next account, and the earliest one upon which we can place much reliance, is that of a General Assembly, A. D. 926, when "Prince Edwin obtained of his brother, King Athelstane, a charter for the Masons as a body, and summoned all the Masons in the Realm to meet him in a congregation at York, who came and composed a General Lodge, of which he was Grand Master, and having brought with them all the writings and records extant, some in Greek, some in Latin, some in French, and other languages, from the contents thereof that assembly did frame the constitution and charges of an English Lodge, and made a law to observe and preserve the same in all time coming.

From this assembly we date the origin of the Grand Lodge of York, from which, and from the Lodge of Kilwinning, all our present Grand Lodges are descended. From A. D. 926 to the completion of St. Paul's Cathedral (about 1690), we have authentic accounts sufficient to prove that the General Assembly at York was regularly held, or with but few interruptions.

Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St. Paul's Cathedral, was elected Grand Master of Masons in 1685, and continued at the head of the Fraternity until the death of King William [William of Nassau], in 1702. The building of St. Paul's was the last great work of the Operative Freemasons. Masonry had already begun to decline; but few Lodges met regularly, and the annual festivals of the craft were entirely neglected. To increase their numbers a proposition was made and agreed to "*that the privileges of Masonry should no longer be restricted to operative Masons, but extend to men of various professions, provided they were regularly approved and initiated into the Order.*"

In consequence of this resolution new regulations were adopted, and the society once more rose into notice and esteem. A new Grand Lodge was formed (the Grand Lodge of England, 1717), which declared that hereafter no new Lodge should be deemed regular unless it was legally authorized to act by a warrant from the Grand Master for the time being. Under the new regulations Lodges were soon established in various parts of the world, and in 1733 the first American Grand Lodge was formed at Boston.

We have thus, though necessarily with much brevity, traced our Masonic genealogy through the Grand Lodge of England, and the travelling Freemasons of the middle ages, to the "Colleges of Artisans" at Rome. The Architects who first composed these colleges were imported by Numa from Greece. On turning our attention to Greece we find that the priests of Bacchus, or as the Greeks called him, Dionysus, devoted themselves to architectural pursuits in connection with their religious mysteries. In 1076, B. C. they established a society or fraternity of builders in Tyre, who were styled by the ancient writers "The Fraternity of Dionyscian Architects." This society of Architects was established 362 years before the Roman Emperor imported his

artisans from Greece, so that we may safely conclude that the Roman and the Tyrian artisans had a common origin.

The establishment of the Fraternity at Tyre is the earliest reliable record we have of a *society or fraternity* of operative Masons or builders. Though the priests of Dionysus taught architecture in connection with their religious mysteries (which mysteries were originally introduced from Egypt), we have no earlier record of an *organized society* for the purposes named.

The fraternity of Architects established in Tyre soon became celebrated throughout Judea, and the countries round about, for their great skill; and when (about 70 years afterwards) King Solomon determined to execute the pious resolution of David, his father, he applied to the King of Tyre for assistance of this very kind, which was cheerfully granted. We may not only suppose that some, at least, of the workmen sent to Solomon were acquainted with the secrets of these Dionysian artificers, but that it was on account of this knowledge and skill they were so much desired by the King of Israel.

At the building of the Temple, it is commonly supposed, was formed, through the wisdom of King Solomon, a union of operative Masonry with the speculative doctrines of the Jews, as taught by them esoterically or secretly. These doctrines were the unity of God and the immortality of the soul, which, until the dawn of Christianity, were ever taught in secret as sacred mysteries. Among the thousands employed on that remarkable edifice, many were doubtless admitted to a knowledge of the secrets of both operative and speculative Masonry; and on their dispersion at its completion, *they carried this knowledge with them into other countries.*

From the completion of the Temple until the Roman Emperor established his colleges of artisans, was a period of 490 years, during which time the Temple had been destroyed, the Jews carried captive to Babylon, the second Temple built by Zerubabel; and Babylon, and many other celebrated cities had been founded. It was also during this intervening period that the great Pythagoras (whom one of the oldest Masonic manuscripts declares introduced Masonry into Europe), after having travelled extensively throughout Asia, Africa, and Europe, established his

celebrated school at Crotona, in Italy. The society or fraternity established by Pythagoras, strongly resembled in its organization, as well as in its distinctive principles, the system of Freemasonry.

The mystery that hangs over our Order during these five hundred years, renders this one of the most interesting periods in our whole history. We are unable to say, precisely how or when Freemasonry, as modified at the Temple, was transplanted from Jerusalem to Europe,—whether it was through the colleges of artisans at Rome, the travels and teachings of Pythagoras, or by the workmen from the Temple and their successors; but we know that it *was* thus transplanted, and that it rapidly spread over the continent through the travelling Freemasons before alluded to, and through them has come down to us. We are also unable to define the precise connection between Freemasonry and the “Ancient Mysteries,” but that there was a most intimate connection, the striking similarity of their doctrines and many of their ceremonies abundantly prove. The most extensive of these mysteries were those of Mithras in Persia, Osiris in Egypt, and Dionysus in Greece. In all these mysteries we find a similar unity of design, clearly indicating a common origin. Their ceremonies were conducted in secret, and their doctrines only communicated to those who had proved their fitness to receive them by a previous initiation. Their members were in possession of *signs* and *tokens* by which they were enabled to recognize each other; their ceremonies of initiation were all funeral in their character, and celebrated the death and resurrection of some being, either esteemed as a hero, or the object of devotion as a God. Subordination of degrees was instituted, and the full fruition of knowledge was not attained until the aspirant, well tried and thoroughly purified, had reached the place of wisdom and of light.

The remarkable similarity of these doctrines and their ceremonies with those of modern speculative Masonry is undeniable, and forces home the conviction of a common origin. That Masonry has experienced many changes, both exoteric and esoteric, and is yet changeable, we cannot deny; but that in its great doctrines and principles it is the same now that it was in the dim

centuries of antiquity, we firmly believe. Now, as then, it teaches Faith in God, Hope in Immortality, and Charity to all Mankind.

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN AMERICA.

FREEMASONS' Lodges in America are of recent date. Upon application of a number of brethren residing in Boston, a warrant was granted by the Right Honorable and Most Worshipful Anthony (Lord Viscount Montague), Grand Master of Masons in England, dated 30th of April, 1733, appointing the Right Worshipful Henry Price, Grand Master of North America, with full power and authority to appoint his deputy, and other Masonic officers necessary for forming a Grand Lodge; and also to constitute Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons, as often as occasion should require.

In consequence of this commission, the Grand Master opened a Grand Lodge in Boston,* on the 30th of July, 1733, in due form, and appointed the Right Worshipful Andrew Belcher, Deputy Grand Master; the Worshipful Thomas Kennelly and John Quann, Grand Wardens.

The Grand Lodge being thus organized, under the designation of SAINT JOHN'S GRAND LODGE, proceeded to grant warrants for instituting regular Lodges in various parts of America; and from this Grand Lodge originated the first Lodges in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Barbadoes, Antigua, Newfoundland, Louisburg, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Surinam, and Saint Christophers.

In 1775 hostilities commenced between Great Britain and America. Boston became a garrison, and was abandoned by many of its former inhabitants. The regular meetings of the Grand Lodges were terminated, and the brethren of Saint John's Grand Lodge held no assembly until after the reëstablishment of peace.

* Sometimes called "The Grand Lodge of Modern Masons."

There was at that time also a Grand Lodge holden at Boston, upon the ANCIENT establishment, under the designation of "THE MASSACHUSETTS GRAND LODGE," which originated as follows :

In 1755 a number of brethren residing in Boston who were ANCIENT MASONS, in consequence of a petition to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, received a deputation dated Nov. 30th, 1756, from Sholto Charles Douglas (Lord Aberdour), then Grand Master, constituting them a regular Lodge, under the title of SAINT ANDREW'S LODGE, No. 82, to be holden at Boston.

This establishment was discouraged and opposed by the Saint John's Grand Lodge, who thought their privileges infringed by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. They therefore refused to have any intercourse with Saint Andrew's Lodge for several years.

The prosperous state of Saint Andrew's Lodge soon led its members to make great exertions for the establishment of an Ancient Grand Lodge in America, which was soon effected in Boston by the assistance of travelling Lodges belonging to the British army who were stationed there.

1769, December 27 : The Festival of the Evangelists was celebrated in due form. When the brethren were assembled a commission from the Right Honorable and Most Worshipful George (Earl of Dalhousie), Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, dated the 30th of May, 1769, appointing Joseph Warren to be Grand Master of Masons in Boston, and within one hundred miles of the same was read ; and he was, according to ancient usage, duly installed into that office. The Grand Master then appointed and installed the other Grand Officers, and the Grand Lodge was at this time completely organized.

Between this period and the year 1791, this Grand Lodge granted warrants of constitution for Lodges to be holden in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, and New York.

In the year 1773 a commission was received from the Right Honorable and Most Worshipful Patrick (Earl of Dumfries), Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, dated March 3d, 1772, appointing the Right Worshipful Joseph Warren, Esq., Grand Master of Masons for the CONTINENT OF AMERICA.

In 1775 the meetings of the Grand Lodge were suspended by the town of Boston becoming a garrison.

At the battle of Bunker's Hill, on the 17th of June, this year, Masonry and the Grand Lodge met with a heavy loss in the death of Grand Master Warren, who was slain contending for the liberties of his country.

Soon after the evacuation of Boston by the British army, and previous to any regular Communication, the brethren, influenced by a pious regard for the memory of the late Grand Master, were induced to search for his body, which had been rudely and indiscriminately buried in the field of slaughter. They accordingly repaired to the place, and by the direction of a person who was on the ground at the time of his burial, a spot was found where the earth had been recently turned up. Upon removing the turf and opening the grave, which was on the brow of a hill, and adjacent to a small cluster of sprigs, the remains were discovered, in a mangled condition, but were easily ascertained ;* and being decently raised, were conveyed to the State-House in Boston : from whence, by a large and respectable number of brethren, —with the late Grand Officers attending in procession,—they were carried to the stone chapel, where an animated eulogium was delivered by Brother Perez Morton. The body was then deposited in the silent vault "without a sculptured stone to mark the spot ; but as the whole earth is the sepulchre of illustrious men, his fame, his glorious actions, are engraved on the tablet of universal remembrance, and will survive marble monuments or local inscriptions."

1777, March 8 : The brethren, who had been dispersed in consequence of the war, being now generally collected, they assembled to take into consideration the state of Masonry. Being deprived of their chief by the melancholy death of their Grand Master, as before mentioned, after due consideration they proceeded to the formation of a Grand Lodge, and elected and installed the Most Worshipful Joseph Webb their Grand Master.

1783, January 3 : A committee was appointed to draft resolutions explanatory of the power and authority of this Grand

* By an artificial tooth.

Lodge. On the 24th June following, the committee reported as follows, viz :

“The committee appointed to take into consideration the conduct of those brethren who assume the powers and prerogatives of a Grand Lodge on the Ancient Establishment in this place, and examine the extent of their authority and jurisdiction, together with the powers of any other Ancient Masonic institution within the same, beg leave to report the result of their examination, founded on the following facts. viz :

“That the commission from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, granted to our late Grand Master Joseph Warren, Esq., having died with him, of course his Deputy (whose appointment was derived from his nomination) being no longer in existence, they saw themselves without a head, and without a single Grand Officer ; and of consequence it was evident that not only the Grand Lodge, but all the particular Lodges under its jurisdiction, must cease to assemble, the brethren be dispersed, the pennyless go unassisted, the craft languish, and ANCIENT Masonry be extinct in this part of the world :

“That in consequence of a summons from the former Grand Officers to the Masters and Wardens of all the regularly constituted Lodges, a Grand Communication was held to consult and advise on some means to preserve the intercourse of the brethren :

“That the political head of this country having destroyed this connection and correspondence between the subjects of these States and the country from which the Grand Lodge originally derived its commissioned authority ; and the principles of the craft inculcating on its professors submission to the commands of the civil authority of the country they reside in ; the brethren did assume an elective supremacy, and under it chose a Grand Master and Grand Officers, and erected a Grand Lodge with independent powers and prerogatives ; to be exercised however on principles consistent with, and subordinate to, the regulations pointed out in the constitutions of Ancient Masonry :

“That the reputation and utility of the Craft under their jurisdiction has been more extensively diffused by the flourishing state of FOURTEEN Lodges constituted by their authority within a short-

er period than that in which THREE ONLY received dispensations under the former Grand Lodge :

“That in the history of our Craft we find that in England there are two Grand Lodges independent of each other ; in Scotland the same ; and in Ireland their Grand Lodge and Grand Master are independent of either England or Scotland ; it is clear that the authority of some of their Grand Lodges originated in assumption ; or otherwise they would acknowledge the head from whence they derived.

“Your committee are therefore of opinion that the doings of the present Grand Lodge were dictated by principles of the clearest necessity, founded in the highest reason, and warranted by precedents of the most approved authority.”

This report was accepted, and corresponding resolutions entered into by the Grand Lodge, and recorded.

1791, December 5 : A committee was appointed, agreeably to a vote of the 2d of March, 1787, to “confer with the officers of Saint John’s Grand Lodge upon the subject of a complete Masonic union throughout this Commonwealth.”

On the 5th of March, 1792, the committee brought in their report, and presented a copy of the laws and constitution for associating and uniting the two Grand Lodges, as agreed to by Saint John’s Grand Lodge ; which being read and deliberately considered, was unanimously approved of.

1792, June 19 : The officers and members of the two Grand Lodges met in conjunction, agreeably to previous arrangements, and installed the Most Worshipful John Cutler Grand Master ; and resolved, “That this Grand Lodge, organized as aforesaid, shall forever hereafter be known by the name of THE GRAND LODGE OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND HONORABLE SOCIETY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.”

In addition to the powers vested by charter in the two Grand Lodges before mentioned for instituting subordinate Lodges, the Grand Lodge of England appointed PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS in several of the States, and invested them also with authority to grant warrants for holding Lodges.

The Revolution which separated the American Colonies from

the Government of the mother country also exonerated the American Lodges from their allegiance to foreign Grand Lodges ; because the principles of Masonry inculcate obedience to the government under which we live. The Lodges in the several States, therefore, after the termination of the war, resorted to the proper and necessary means of forming and establishing independent Grand Lodges for the government of the fraternity in their respective jurisdictions.

Freemasonry owes its introduction into Pennsylvania to Benjamin Franklin. On the 24th of June, 1734, a warrant was granted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for holding a Lodge in Philadelphia, and appointing him the first Master. He cultivated Masonry with great zeal, and his partiality suffered no diminution during his long and illustrious life.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is the oldest Masonic establishment in the United States. The first Grand Lodge ever held on this Continent was at Boston, on the 30th July, 1733, known by the name of SAINT JOHN'S GRAND LODGE, and descended from the Grand Master of England.

The Massachusetts Grand Lodge, also holden at Boston, was first established on the 27th December, A. L. 5769, and descended from the Grand Master of Scotland.

On the 19th of June, A. L. 5792, a Grand Masonic Union was formed by the two Grand Lodges, and all distinction between Ancient and Modern Masons abolished.

We give below a list of the States in which there exists a Grand Lodge, date of institution, and also authority for such date :

[The marks in last column refer to foot-notes at the end of the list.]

States Having Gr. Lodge.	Date of Institution.		References to Foot-Notes.	
Alabama,	June	15, 1821.	. . .	*§
Arizona,	March	24, 1882.	. . .	†§
Arkansas,	February	22, 1832.	. . .	*
British Columbia,	December	27, 1871.	. . .	*
Canada,	October	10, 1855.	. . .	*
California.	April	19, 1850.	. . .	*
Colorado,	December	11, 1861.	. . .	§
Connecticut.	July	8, 1789.	. . .	*†§

States Having Gr. Lodge.	Date of Institution.	References to Foot-notes
Delaware,	June 6, 1806.	*†
Dist. of Columbia,	February 19, 1811.	*†§
Florida,	July 5, 1830.	*†
Georgia,	December 16, 1786.	*§
Idaho,	December 17, 1867.	†§
Illinois,	April 6, 1840.	†
Indiana,	January 12, 1818.	*†§
Indian Territory,	October 5, 1874.	*†§
Iowa,	January 8, 1844.	†§
Kansas,	March 17, 1856.	*
Kentucky,	October 8, 1800.	*
Louisiana,	July 20, 1812.	*
Maine,	June 1, 1820.	††§
Manitoba,	May 12, 1875.	*§
Maryland,	April 17, 1787.	*†§
Massachusetts,	July 30, 1733.	†§
Michigan,	July 31, 1826.	†§
Minnesota,	February 23, 1863.	*
Mississippi,	July 27, 1818.	*§
Missouri,	May 4, 1821.	†
Montana,	January 24, 1866.	††§
Nebraska,	September 23, 1857.	*†§
Nevada,	January 17, 1865.	†§
New Brunswick,	October 10, 1867.	††
New Hampshire,	July 8, 1789.	*†§
New Jersey,	December 18, 1786.	*†
New Mexico,	August 7, 1877.	*††§
New York,	September 5, 1781.	*†§
North Carolina,	December 12, 1777.	*
North Dakota,	June 12, 1889.	†§
Nova Scotia,	January 21, 1866.	Drummond.
Ohio,	January 7, 1808.	††§
Oregon,	September 15, 1851.	†§
Pennsylvania,	September 26, 1786.	††
Prince Edw. Island,	June 24, 1875.	*§
Quebec,	October 20, 1869.	*§
Rhode Island,	June 25, 1791.	†
South Dakota,	June 23, 1875.	†§
South Carolina,	March 24, 1787.	†§
Tennessee,	December 27, 1813.	†§
Texas,	December 20, 1837.	*†§
Utah,	January 17, 1872.	*§
Vermont,	October 13, 1794.	†§
Virginia,	October 18, 1778.	*†
Washington,	December 6, 1858.	†§

States Having Gr. Lodges.	Date of Institution.	References to Foot-notes.
West Virginia,	May 10, 1865.	. . . †‡§
Wisconsin,	December 18, 1848.	. . . *‡§
Wyoming,	December 11, 1874.	. . . †

AUTHORITY FOR ABOVE DATES:

* Grand Secretary of the several Grand Lodges.

† Proceedings of the several Grand Lodges.

‡ Mackey's History of Freemasonry.

§ History of Freemasonry and Concordant Orders.

BY-LAWS
OF
MERIDIAN LODGE, ANCIENT, FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS,
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS.

[ORDERED PRINTED BY A VOTE OF THE LODGE, MAY 20, 1891.]

BY-LAWS OF MERIDIAN LODGE,

ANCIENT, FREE, AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

ARTICLE I.

STATED COMMUNICATIONS.

THIS LODGE shall hold stated meetings on or before the full of the moon, in each month, at such hour as the Worshipful Master shall direct. The meetings of the Lodge may be dispensed with during the summer months by a vote of the Lodge to that effect.

ARTICLE II.

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At the Annual Meeting, which shall be holden on the regular communication in the month of October for the choice of officers, there shall be elected by a majority of the members present, a Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary. There shall be appointed a Chaplain, Marshal, Senior and Junior Deacons, Senior and Junior Stewards, Sentinel, Organist and Tyler; and such other officers as the Master may deem expedient.

ARTICLE III.

TREASURER'S DUTIES.

SEC. 1. The Treasurer shall invest the funds of the Lodge in such manner as the Finance Committee may direct, or pay them out on such orders as they may approve.

SEC. 2. His account must at all times be subject to the inspection of the Finance Committee and the Lodge. He shall exhibit an account of all money transactions of the Lodge, to be laid before the Lodge at the annual meetings, and shall pay over all money to his successor, who shall give triplicate receipts, one of which shall be on file with the Secretary.

SECRETARY'S DUTIES.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall furnish every Master Mason raised in this Lodge with a Diploma; and shall submit his accounts to the inspection of the Lodge whenever required. He shall also report to the Lodge the names of all delinquent members, agreeably to Art. xi. For his services he shall receive such compensation as the Lodge may from time to time vote.

TYLER'S DUTIES.

SEC. 4. The Tyler's duty shall be to take special charge of the jewels and regalia of the Lodge; keep the furniture and apartments clean, and everything in order for the meetings of the Lodge; and for the faithful performance of his duty, he shall receive such compensation as the Lodge may determine.

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES OF MASTER AND WARDENS.

The Master and Wardens shall constitute a Finance Committee: They shall superintend the prudential concerns of the Lodge; they shall examine and approve in writing all bills before they can be paid, and shall act as Trustees of the Lodge during their term of office. They shall direct the investment of all funds of the Lodge, and shall report the precise state of its funds, together with the receipts and expenditures at the Annual Communication in October, and at such other times as the Lodge shall direct.

ARTICLE V.

PART OF FEES WITH APPLICATION FOR DEGREES.

Each candidate before initiation shall deposit Fifteen Dollars with his application, as a part of his fees for initiation, which shall be returned in case of rejection.

ARTICLE VI.

REJECTION OF CANDIDATES.

If a candidate be rejected, no brother shall, on any pretense whatever, make known his rejection; or the brother or brothers opposing him, on penalty, if a member, of being expelled after due notice and trial; if a visitor, of never being again admitted as such; and no member, after the state of the ballot has been

disclosed, shall make any motion, observation, or debate thereon. This article shall always be read on the rejection of a candidate, for the information of all present.

ARTICLE VII.

APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for membership, not made in this Lodge, or who have forfeited membership, shall make application in writing, enclosing the required fee; and if elected, shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership.

ARTICLE VIII.

FAILURE OF CANDIDATES TO APPEAR FOR DEGREES.

If any candidate shall fail to appear within six months after he has been notified of his election, in writing, by the Secretary, he shall forfeit all claim thereto, unless he shall make written request for further time, which may be granted by vote of the Lodge.

ARTICLE IX.

MEMBERSHIP FEE.

The fee for Membership shall be Five Dollars; provided, however, if the brother received his Degrees in this Lodge, he may become a member by signing the By-laws.

ARTICLE X.

FEES FOR DEGREES.

The fee for the Degrees shall be Thirty Dollars: For passing the Degree of Fellow Craft, Fifteen Dollars; and for raising to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, Twenty Dollars.

ARTICLE XI.

WHEN DUES ARE PAYABLE.

Every member of this Lodge shall settle his dues with the Secretary at or before the Annual Meeting in October of each year. Any member neglecting so to do shall be notified of his delinquency by the Secretary; and if he shall continue such neglect for the space of one year after being thus notified, his name

being reported as a delinquent, his membership may, by vote of the Lodge, be declared forfeited, after due notice and action.

ARTICLE XII.

DUES—LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP—LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.

SEC. 1. Every member of the Lodge except the Treasurer, Secretary, and Honorary Members, shall pay to the Secretary as yearly dues the sum of Three Dollars for the benefit of the Lodge, which shall not include the Grand Lodge tax laid June 11th, 1879, of One Dollar annually for fifteen years (except in case of commutation), which tax shall be paid conjointly with the afore-said Lodge dues.

SEC. 2. Any member of the Lodge may commute his annual dues and become a Life Member upon payment of the amount specified in the following table, provided he is not in arrears upon the books of the Lodge, if already a member :

One year, and less than five years,.....	\$40 00
Five years, and less than ten years,....	35 00
Ten years, and less than fifteen years,.....	30 00
Fifteen years, and less than twenty years,.....	25 00
Twenty years, and less than twenty-five years,.....	20 00
Twenty-five years, and less than thirty years,.....	10 00

SEC. 3. Any member of this Lodge who shall be recommended for Honorary Membership may be made an Honorary Member by an election attended by the same formalities that are required in an election to ordinary membership.

SEC. 4. Any member of the Lodge who has paid annual dues in Meridian Lodge for thirty (30) consecutive years shall be constituted a Life Member without an election.

SEC. 5. All money received for Life Memberships shall constitute a fund to be denominated the "Life Membership Fund" of Meridian Lodge ; and it shall be invested in such manner as the Treasurer of the Lodge, under the direction of the Finance Committee, may consider proper and secure. The interest arising from this fund may be appropriated for the expenses of the Lodge ; but the principal shall never be expended except it be appropriated by unanimous consent of all the members present at a Regu-

lar Communication of the Lodge,—such intended action being borne upon the notification of such Communication.

ARTICLE XIII.

RELIEF COMMITTEE AND DUTIES.

SEC. 1. There shall be appointed at the Annual Communication in October a Committee of three members, to be denominated the Relief Committee, whose duty it shall be, when the Lodge is not in session, to assist poor and needy brothers, their widows and orphans, in sickness or distress, if found worthy; and who shall have power to draw on the Treasurer for such sums of money, not exceeding Twenty-five Dollars in any individual case, as in their judgment may be necessary.

SEC. 2. It shall also be the duty of said Committee to visit worthy brothers when sick or in distress, provide watchers if necessary, and see that they are properly cared for.

ARTICLE XIV.

BY-LAWS ALTERED OR AMENDED.

These By-laws shall not be altered nor amended except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting especially notified for that purpose,—the notification to the members bearing a copy of the proposed change or amendment, the same having been submitted to a previous meeting.

ARTICLE XV.

CHARITY FUND—TRUSTEES' DUTIES, ETC.

SEC. 1. The "Charity Fund" of Meridian Lodge, A. F. & A. M. shall be held in trust by a Board of three (3) Trustees, elected by ballot, who shall hold respectively for a term of one (1), two (2), and three (3) years from the Annual Communication of the Lodge in October, 1890; two of whom shall not at the same time hold the office of said Trustee. and any elective or appointed office of the Lodge: And the Lodge shall elect thereafter by ballot, annually, one Trustee to hold for three years; and may fill any vacancy that may arise by death, resignation, or infirmity, at any Communication called for such purpose, provided that such intended action is borne on the notification of said Communication.

SEC. 2. The Board of Trustees shall have authority to receive, hold, invest, and manage all gifts, devices, and bequests made, either to said Board or Meridian Lodge, for charitable purposes and relief connected with the families of deceased or living members of Meridian Lodge.

SEC. 3. No loan shall be made of the Trust Funds to any member of the Board; nor shall any member of the Board be security for a loan. The Trustees shall annually report the condition and investment of all the funds entrusted to them to the Master, Wardens, and members of Meridian Lodge, who shall cause the accounts of said Board to be examined at least once a year; and oftener should they deem it advisable, and certify the result.

SEC. 4. The income only of the Charity Fund shall be expended for the purposes named in Section ii. The principal shall never be expended except it be appropriated by the unanimous consent of the members present at a Regular Communication of the Lodge; such intended action being borne upon the notification of such Communication.

SEAL.

Circular—one and five-eighth inches in diameter. In the outer circle are the words and letters, "Meridian Lodge, F. & A. M., Natick, Mass." The inner circle encloses the square and compasses, embracing an illuminated letter "G." and the word, "Chartered," above the angle of the compasses, with "A. L. 5797" below the angle of the square.

The foregoing By-laws were accepted and adopted by Meridian Lodge December 12th, 1883; approved by Grand Lodge in Quarterly Communication March 12th, 1884.

Article xiv. was altered by vote of the Lodge December 12th, 1888, and approved by Grand Lodge March 13th, 1889.

Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 were added to Article 12 by vote of the Lodge July 10th, 1889, and approved by Grand Lodge September 11th, 1889.

Article xv. was adopted by the Lodge August 27th, 1890, and approved by Grand Lodge September 16th, 1890.

EXTRACTS
FROM THE
GRAND LODGE CONSTITUTION
RELATING TO SUBORDINATE LODGES.

INSTRUCTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN GRAND LODGE.

THE majority of the members of any Lodge, when duly assembled, shall have the right to instruct their Master and Wardens, as their Representatives in the Grand Lodge.

RIGHTS OF A MINORITY WHEN A MAJORITY WITHDRAW.

As every warranted Lodge is a constituent part of the Grand Lodge, in which assembly all the power of the Fraternity resides, it is clear that no other authority can destroy the power granted by a warrant; if, therefore, the majority of any Lodge should determine to leave the institution, or leave that Lodge, the constitution, or power of assembling, remains with the rest of the members, who adhere to their allegiance. If the number remaining shall, however, be reduced to less than seven, the Charter shall be returned, agreeably to the regulation in such cases provided.

UNIFORMITY OF WORK.

All Lodges are particularly bound to observe the same usages and customs. Every deviation, therefore, from the established mode of working is highly improper, and ought not to be countenanced. In order to preserve this uniformity, and to cultivate a good understanding among the Craft some members of every Lodge should be deputed to visit the other Lodges as often as may be convenient; and it shall be the duty of the Master and Wardens to qualify themselves in the work and lectures sanc-

tioned by the Grand Lodge, that they may be enabled to instruct their respective Lodges.

INITIATION OF CANDIDATES.

All applications for initiation shall be made in writing, over the signature of the applicant (in the form prescribed by the By-laws) ; and no candidate shall be balloted for who has not been proposed at a stated monthly meeting, and who shall not have stood so proposed from one regular monthly meeting to another, without a dispensation therefor : nor shall a candidate in any event be balloted for into whose moral character a strict inquiry has not been made, and whose name has not been borne on the notifications for the meeting at which he is to be balloted for.

CANDIDATES REJECTED ELSEWHERE.

No candidate whose application may have been rejected by a Lodge shall be initiated in any Lodge under this jurisdiction other than the one to which he first applied, without a recommendation from six members of said Lodge, of whom the Master and Wardens shall be three : and when the Master and Wardens are so unwilling to recommend a candidate who has been rejected, it shall be their duty to communicate such rejection to the Grand Lodge, or to the District Deputy Grand Master, who shall immediately communicate the same to all the Lodges under his jurisdiction. And if any Mason shall knowingly assist, or recommend for initiation, *to any Lodge whatever*, any candidate rejected as aforesaid, who may not have obtained a recommendation as before provided, such Mason shall be expelled from the Institution, or subjected to such other penalty as the Grand Lodge may see cause to impose.

NOT TO GIVE MORE THAN ONE DEGREE.

It shall not be regular to give more than one degree to the same individual on the same day, nor at a less interval than one month from his receiving a previous degree, unless a dispensation shall have been obtained therefor.

INITIATION MUST BE UNANIMOUS.

The general rule which governs the Order in the admission of

a member is, that such admission is to be sanctioned by entire unanimity ; and so sacred and fundamental does the Grand Lodge conceive this rule to be, that no candidate shall be initiated in any Lodge under this jurisdiction without a clear and unanimous vote in his favor. Every member present shall vote on the application unless excused by the Lodge.

CANDIDATES MAIMED OR DEFORMED.

By the ancient regulations the physical deformity of an individual operates as a bar to his admission into the Fraternity ; but in view of the fact that this regulation was adopted for the government of the Craft at a period when they united the character of *operative* with that of *speculative* Masonry, this Grand Lodge—in common, it is believed, with most of her sister Grand Lodges in this country and in Europe—has authorized such a construction of the regulation as that where the deformity does not amount to an inability to meet the requirements of the ritual, and honestly to acquire the means of subsistence, it constitutes no hindrance to initiation.

CANDIDATES FROM OTHER TOWNS AND STATES.

All applications for initiation shall be made to the Lodge in the town or city where the petitioner resides, if there be a Lodge therein ; but if there be none, then he shall apply to the Lodge most convenient to his residence ; and it shall be the duty of such Lodge to make due and careful inquiry as to the moral standing of the petitioner, of some respectable and reliable person or persons living in the place of his residence, before he shall be initiated : and no person residing in a town or city where there is a Lodge, shall be initiated in any other town or city without the written consent and recommendation of the Master, one Warden, and two members, at least, of each Lodge in the town or city where he resides ; provided, however, that where there are more than two Lodges in any city or town, such consent and recommendation shall not be required of more than two of them. Nor shall any candidate be received from any other State (he being a resident thereof) where a regular Lodge is established, without the written permission of the Grand Master of such State.

WHEN INITIATED OR CRAFTED IN ANOTHER LODGE.

No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft initiated or passed in any Lodge within the United States, shall be passed or raised in any Lodge under this jurisdiction without the consent of the Master and Wardens of the Lodge in which he was first admitted, or by Dispensation from the Grand Master.

OBJECTIONS BEFORE A DEGREE IS CONFERRED.

Any member of a subordinate Lodge may object to the initiation, passing, or raising of a candidate at any time before the degree is conferred; and it shall be the duty of the Lodge to examine such objections before proceeding further with a candidate.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED IN A MASTER'S LODGE.

No business other than that appertaining to the work and lectures shall be transacted in a Lodge while open on the first or second degree. All general business, such as the election and installation of officers, the discussion of questions relating to the general interests of the Fraternity, and the local affairs of the Lodge, shall be transacted in a Master's Lodge.

MASTER MASONS ONLY RECEIVED AS MEMBERS.

The Lodge shall admit as members such only as are Master Masons; and any brother having been discharged for nonpayment of dues shall not be admitted to membership in any other Lodge until the same are paid or remitted. The receipt or certificate from the Secretary of the Lodge of which the applicant was last a member shall be satisfactory evidence that his dues have been liquidated.

COGNIZANCE OF SOJOURNING BRETHREN.

Any Lodge may take cognizance of the conduct of any sojourning brother or brethren not attached to any particular Lodge upon a charge of unmasonic conduct.

NOT TO PERMIT UNAUTHORIZED LECTURES.

No Lodge shall encourage, promote, or permit the delivery of any Masonic lectures which have not been sanctioned and

authorized by the Grand Lodge ; nor shall any Mason be permitted to deliver such lectures under this jurisdiction.

PUBLIC PROCESSIONS.

No Lodge shall form a public procession without permission from the Grand Master (or in his absence the Deputy Grand Master), or the District Deputy Grand Master within whose district it is located.

FUNERALS.

No Mason can be interred with the formalities of the Order, unless it be at his own special request, without a dispensation from the Grand Master ; nor under any circumstances, unless he has been advanced to the degree of Master Mason.

ITINERANT MASONS.

No Lodge, or officer, or member of a Lodge, shall under any circumstances give a certificate or recommendation to enable a Mason to proceed from Lodge to Lodge as a pauper ; or in an itinerant manner to apply to Lodges for relief.

POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.

It shall not be permitted to introduce political or other exciting topics of discussion in any Lodge under this jurisdiction.

SHALL MEET ONCE A MONTH.

A Lodge shall meet once a month in each calendar month ; but may with propriety adjourn during the summer months of June, July, and August.

MASTER SHALL HAVE CHARGE OF CHARTERS.

The Master of a Lodge has the special charge of its Charter, and it is his duty to see that it is carefully preserved. It must be present whenever the Lodge is opened.

WHO MAY CALL FOR CHARTER.

A visiting brother, having produced his Grand Lodge Certificate or Diploma, has a right to call for the Charter of a Lodge he desires to visit.

SHALL BE A MEMBER OF ONE LODGE ONLY.

No brother shall be a member of more than one Lodge ; nor shall he hold more than one office in the same Lodge at the same time.

MEMBERSHIP ON REMOVAL.

The removal of a brother into another jurisdiction does not, of itself, authorize his name to be stricken from the roll of the Lodge of which he is a member.

MAY EXCLUDE VISITORS.

No Mason not a member of some subordinate Lodge shall be allowed to visit the same Lodge, in the place where he resides, more than twice without the permission of the Master, or vote of the Lodge.

BY-LAWS CANNOT BE SUSPENDED.

No Lodge can suspend the operation of a By-law ; or at a *special* meeting alter or expunge any part of the proceedings of a *stated* one.

WHO SHALL BE ELECTED MASTER.

No brother shall be elected Master of a Lodge who has not served at least one year in the office of Warder.

LODGES NOT TO INTERFERE WITH EACH OTHER.

It shall not be legal for any Lodge to interfere with the business or concerns of another Lodge.

POWER OF RECONSIDERING VOTES.

Any vote passed in the Grand Lodge, or by any subordinate Lodge, may be reconsidered at the same meeting, or at the next subsequent meeting ; provided notice of the intention to move for such a reconsideration shall be given at the meeting at which the vote was originally passed.

FINIS.

The fraternal
compliments of

MERIDIAN LODGE NO. 100

WE HEREBY EXTENDED TO

Pequosselle Lodge
OF
WATERTOWN, MASS.

in accordance with a unanimous vote passed at a
Regular Communication of Meridian Lodge held at
Nasque Hall Natick Mass. December 12, 1888.
It is further desired to place upon

PUBLIC RECORD OF APPRECIATION

of the members of Meridian Lodge for the fraternal generosity exhibited
by Pequosselle Lodge in restoring to them the

ORIGINAL GAVEL USED

by their Lodge about the year 1797 while located in Watertown.

in recognition of the great value to them of this ancient
relic of the early Masonic history of their Lodge.

THEY HEREWITH TENDER
THEIR

SINCERE & EARNEST THANKS.

In testimony whereof

we have caused the seal
of our Lodge to be affixed at Natick Mass.
this 14 day of February
1889

Witness the signatures

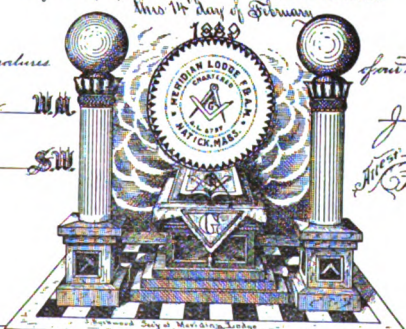
J. H. Lillegren WM

C. F. Fiske SM

For Master and Wardens

J. A. Wood Jr J. W.

Wm. J. F. Richard Sec.



ERRATA.

- Page 7, ¶ 2, line 5—For "Morse's Block, on Pond-street," read "Morse's Block, on East Central-street."
- Page 29, ¶ 1, line 1—For "Grand Past Master John Wilson," read "Past Master John Wilson."
- Page 31, ¶ 2, date —For "1868," read "1867."
- Page 32, eleventh line from bottom—For "Jewett," read "Jewel."
- Page 33, ¶ 3, date—For "1879," read "1870."
- Page 49, ¶ 3, date—For "November 20," read "January 20."
- Page 65, ¶ 4, date—For "1884," read "1886."
- Page 101, ¶ 2, date—For "1892," read "1888."
- Page 119, ¶ 2, line 1—For "Plymouth, N. H.," read "Portsmouth, N. H."
- Page 150—Foot-note should read, "Worshipful Brother Sleeper claims to have been elected in 1858 and 1859."
- Page 221, line 2—For "October 1864," read "October 1852."
- Page 228—(First name in list of members, Table of 1867-8)—For "(Oliver O. Felch," read "Oliver A. Felch "
- Page 230—(First name in list of officers)—"For J. N. Hill," read "I. N. Hill."
- Page 234—(Ninth name in list of members)—For "Royal B. Wright," read "Royal B. Wight."
- Page 235—(Last name in list of officers)—For "R. B. Wright, Tyler," read "R. B. Wight, Tyler."
- Page 240—(First name in list of members)—For "Franklin H. Bigwood," read "Franklin J. Bigwood."
- Page 241—(Third name in list of officers)—For "F. E. Hall, Sr. Steward," read "F. H. Hall, Sr. Steward."
- Page 244—(Third name in list of officers)—For "Chas. A. Brown, Sr. Steward," read "Clarence A. Brown, Sr. Steward."
- Page 244—(Fifth name in list of members, same Table)—For "Chester T. Soule," read "Chester F. Soule."
- Page 249—(Last name in list of members, Table of 1888-9)—For "Charles N Hoker," read "Charles N. Hooker."

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